Greetings OSU colleagues:

In fall 2011, the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) facilitated its first New Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) Orientation in September. Day 1 on September 15, 2011, was designed for and delivered to new international students in partnership with the Division of International Programs. Day 2 on September 16, 2011, was designed for and delivered to all new GTAs, including international GTAs, in partnership with the Graduate School.

Support for and attendance at the event exceeded our expectations. Twenty-six colleagues from across campus, including faculty, staff, and veteran GTAs, designed and delivered 30+ sessions to over 200 new GTAs at the two-day event. Assessment of the event was positive, with attendees’ mean scores indicating that considerable gains were made with respect to our learning outcomes as a result of the event.* Additionally, attendees rated the event high with respect to clarity, organization, delivery, as well as ability to stimulate thinking and promote a welcoming environment. Scores and information by college can be found in the attached summary document.

The CTL will be facilitating New Graduate Teaching Assistant Orientation again this fall on September 13-14, 2012. A formal invitation to new GTAs to participate along with registration information will follow in the coming months as we collaborate with the Graduate School in promoting the event. When you receive the announcement later this summer, please pass the information along to your new incoming GTAs. We greatly appreciate your assistance in spreading the word about the event in encouraging new GTAs to participate.

Between now and then, we welcome your inquiries as well as any feedback you may have regarding how the CTL can best support your GTAs.

Best,
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*Note: a few anomalies were noted in our findings by college. On Day 1 (for international GTAs), attendees from the College of Agricultural Sciences and College of Education (n=3) reported post-test scores that were lower than pre-test scores in all eight learning areas. Given the structure of the pre-test/post-test assessment, it is possible that survey was a bit confusing to some respondents. Staff members are reviewing the instrument and reviewing the literature to determine whether there are other possibilities for these unusual responses.