

Workshop targets local racism

By Jolie Andrade
Emerald Reporter

A racial justice workshop aimed at eliminating racism on campus and in Eugene will bring University students and community members together to develop a plan of action to take effect at the end of the session.

The workshop, sponsored by YWCA, is being held on Jan. 13 from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the EMU Fir room.

One of the reasons for having the workshop is to close the gap between what the community does and what the campus does, said Jesse Fortier, campus YWCA director.

"We're trying to get students and community members to work together to deal with racism," Fortier said, adding that she hopes this workshop will be the beginning of many more.

Fortier said the workshop is a "working workshop" and not one based on theory. "We want people to be actively involved in the process and decision making," she said. "It's not going to be one of those workshops where you just sit around and listen."

"At the end these small groups end up becoming small on-going groups beyond the workshop and commit to make a date to come back and report on the progress."

The "Cadre Model," the basic structure of the workshop, pays close attention to details of a plan by alternating between large and small discussion groups, Fortier said.

Diagrams including tactics and targets are created in the small groups and presented to the large group for refinement, feedback and adjustments, she said. The process continues until concrete plans are made.

The first part of the workshop, "Power Inventory," identifies the influential institutions and people who support or oppose the elimination of racism, Fortier said.

"Brainstorming," the next section, requires the group to decide on five or six major problems to focus on during the workshop.

The fourth session, "Force Field Analysis," will be the most crucial part of the workshop because the large group is separated into smaller working groups, Fortier said. Each

group picks a problem to work on, brainstorms ideas, assessing the pros and cons, and decides on their approach.

Margarita Mendoza De Sugiyama, Special Assistant to the President of Evergreen State College, will be conducting the "working workshop" using the Cadre Model. Sugiyama conducted the racism workshop at the University last year, and has been conducting racism workshops nationally since 1970.

The workshop is sponsored by the YWCA and 38 other co-sponsors from the University, Lane Community College and the community. Major contributors include the Black Student Union, Center for Study of Women in Society, Clergy and Laity Concerned, Honorary Nations Ethnic Youth and both Women's Centers from the University and LCC.

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