Dear Graduate Teaching Assistant:

The Dean’s Offices of Arts & Sciences and Engineering, in cooperation with the Center for Educational Resources (CER) and the Graduate Representative Organization (GRO), are sponsoring an initial teaching assistant orientation session, "Making the Difference." Since effective teaching is essential to both your academic future and our students' university education, attendance at the TA training session is mandatory for all students who will be TAs for the first time in either the fall or spring semesters of academic year 2019-20.

This year we will hold the morning plenary training session on Tuesday August 27, 2019 from 8:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in Hodson Hall. All new Graduate Teaching Assistants are asked to please stop by the registration table between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m. to sign in. A Continental breakfast will be provided at that time. During the plenary session, faculty and members of the University administration will discuss a variety of teaching-related issues, including academic ethics, sexual harassment, dealing with “difficult” students, and suggestions to help you become an effective teacher. Questions are encouraged!

Following the plenary session, we will offer a series of breakout workshops on a variety of pedagogical topics given by faculty and members of the GRO. The workshops will run from 10:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and will be held in various classroom locations in Hodson Hall (Lunch will be provided afterwards). You may access descriptions of these workshops at the following URL: http://www.cer.jhu.edu/tatraining. If you have questions about any of the workshops or about the registration process, please contact Richard Shingles of the Center for Educational Resources at 410.516.4679 or tati@jhu.edu.

In preparation for all of the day’s events, Graduate Teaching Assistants will be provided with a Teaching Assistant Training Manual entitled “Making the Difference”, as well as additional information pertaining to the orientation program and future workshops and courses to support University teaching. Copies of the manual will also be available from the CER.

We enthusiastically encourage you to attend the entire TA Orientation session. Not only will you learn techniques and new ideas related to good teaching but the event will provide a wonderful opportunity for you to meet fellow TAs. We look forward to greeting you on August 27th.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Richard Shingles, Ph.D., B.Ed.
Director, TA Training Institute
Center for Educational Resources
Johns Hopkins University