

Gender Equity Project Colloquia and Workshops

Self-promotion and Building a National Reputation Topic Discussion and Activities

Because both activities have components that must be completed before the workshop, there is no reading. Please be sure to complete the required sections of activity 1 and activity 2 in preparation for the workshop.

Activity 1: Ask a colleague you consider to be successful, well-known, or a good self-promoter, for a copy of his or her CV. This should be a person who has achieved a position, award, or status that you aspire to. Think of this CV as a guidebook for self-promotion and compare it to your own. What suggestions for building your own reputation does it have to offer? Are there particular professional activities you should be engaging in (e.g., organizing conference panels, running for an elected position in your professional society)? Are there particular agencies or organizations you should be seeking grant money from? What concrete ideas for your own professional progress can you gather from comparing your CV to your colleague's CV? Bring a copy of this colleague's CV as well a copy of your own CV to the workshop. Work with a partner to construct a concrete plan to increase or improve your standing based on the ideas you collected from you colleague's CV. Your plan should include at least one goal that is both tangible and feasible, with enough detail so that you could actually make significant progress toward the goal over the next 6 months.

Activity 2: Write a 1 – 2 page letter evaluating your work over the past academic year. The purpose of this evaluation is to get you accustomed to presenting your accomplishments in research, teaching, and service to others in a realistically positive light. Think about your accomplishments broadly; the letter should cover progress you have made in your research, recent or forthcoming publications, advances in your teaching or course development, and service to your department, the college, and your field. The evaluation should present an accurate and favorable assessment of your career over the past academic year. As you write the evaluation letter, assume that your audience is your department chair and keep the following questions in mind.

- Does the letter highlight your most important or noteworthy accomplishments?
- Does it demonstrate the progress of your research?
- Does it show your teaching skill and commitment?
- Does it display your value to your department? To the college? To your field?
- Does it contribute to a positive image of you as a successful researcher, teacher, and academic citizen?

Bring your evaluation letter with you to the workshop. Work with a partner to revise the letter so that it maximizes your accomplishments. Ask your partner to assess how well the letter describes your research, teaching, and service and if there are any areas where you should be promoting yourself more.