

Opportunity: **Consultant** to Assist in Restructuring an Engineering Communication Program

The Department of Human Centered Design & Engineering at the University of Washington is embarking on an exciting redesign of its Engineering Communication Program, and we are seeking a **Consultant** who has extensive experience with Writing across the Curriculum and/or Writing in the Disciplines. Some experience with technical or engineering communication programs is a plus.

Our current restructuring plans include a two-course sequence: one class offered within the department and a second class, offered within the department, but connected to specific courses in other engineering departments. For the second course, we are especially interested in learning about how other institutions have implemented WAC or WID programs.

We are looking for an expert for a short term consultancy this academic year to advise us concerning how other programs have implemented WAC or WID programs, especially in engineering colleges; we are interested in learning about both successes and failures.

Regardless of the new curriculum, our future program needs to:

- Build on a broad, comprehensive notion of the role of communication in engineering practice.
- Help students develop an appreciation for, and an ability to effectively use, fundamental communication concepts and skills.
- Engage students through creative assignments at different levels of study.
- Ensure that students receive feedback that advances their communication skills.
- Involve robust, time-sensitive grading approaches.
- Have a capacity for teaching ~1300 engineering undergraduates per year in face-to-face classrooms.
- Make effective use of the skills and abilities of our graduate students who are employed as teaching assistants.
- Provide our graduate students with opportunities to advance their teaching skills.

The HCDE Department has had a successful ECP in place for many years, but recent changes in the department and college makes this an especially productive and provocative time for curricular innovation. We have excellent institutional support for these curriculum changes, and the department is eager to offer these new courses.

In autumn 2010, we plan to hire a two-year visiting faculty member to help with final design and implementation of the program, but we are looking for a short-term **consultant** with longitudinal experience to examine our institutional context, curricular goals, and the state of current WAC/WID practice in order to provide guidance on how we build out the new program.

Appointment terms:

This appointment is a consulting position with a fixed budget of \$10,000, intended to cover three weeks of person time and two or three visits to our campus for activities such as gathering information from stakeholders and feedback on preliminary designs. The person hired for this position will have the flexibility to determine how best to allocate time in order to accomplish the goals of the position, including frequency and duration of campus visits. Program design should be completed by May 2010; the department intends to implement the program in October 2010.

The ideal candidate will have a PhD or equivalent degree in a related field and:

- Excellent communication and collaboration skills.
- Significant experience with WAC or WID programs.
- Some familiarity with writing programs in technical disciplines.
- An excellent understanding of institutional structures.
- An ability to conduct the program design process in collaboration with our department faculty and other college faculty.
- Relevant background in pedagogies for teaching writing and communication; an awareness of engineering education issues such as ABET concerns; and knowledge of how to design and manage educational programs such as a large writing program in which multiple sections of courses are taught using a range of instructors and instructional approaches.

To apply:

If you are interested in the position, please submit the following materials:

- A letter that describes your experience with WAC or WID, your experience or knowledge of writing in technical disciplines or professional contexts, and any other relevant skills and experiences that you bring to the position. Please also provide some details on how you might structure your time, your approach (including specific activities, time frames, and intermediate deliverables), what challenges you anticipate, and what resources you will need from the department. In addition, your letter should explain how this position fits in with your current commitments.
- A curriculum vitae with relevant experience and publications highlighted.

Application materials should be submitted either to [bkolko@uw.edu](mailto:bkolko@uw.edu) or to:

Chair of ECP-Designer Search Committee  
Human Centered Design & Engineering  
Box 352315  
University of Washington  
Seattle, WA 98195

We will begin reviewing applications on November 15, 2009, and will continue reviewing applications until the position is filled.

The ECP serves students in the University of Washington's College of Engineering (<http://www.engr.washington.edu/>) and is administered by the Department of Human Centered Design & Engineering (<http://www.hcde.washington.edu/>). Additional information about the existing ECP is available at <http://www.hcde.washington.edu/nav-prog-advise/engr-comm-prog>.

Questions can be addressed to Professor Beth Kolko, Chair of the ECP-Designer search committee by email ([bkolko@uw.edu](mailto:bkolko@uw.edu)) or by phone (1-206-685-3809).