



Faculty Leader Invitation Letter

The Obama Presidency: The First 100 Days Academic Seminar

The Washington Center
for Internships and Academic Seminars
Seminar Website: www.obama100.org

Dear Faculty:

I am writing to invite you or someone you may recommend to apply for a faculty leader position for The Washington Center's The Obama Presidency: The First 100 Days academic seminar to take place in Washington D.C. You may apply to be a faculty leader for a set of your own students (minimum of 10) or to serve as a faculty leader for students from other institutions.

The dates of the program are as follows:

Check-in: Sunday, May 17, 2009

Faculty Leader Orientation Meeting: Sunday, May 17, at 3 p.m.

Program Ends: Friday, May 22, 2009 about 1 p.m.

Check-out no later than noon, Sunday, May 24

The role of a faculty leader is to be responsible for the teaching, guidance, and evaluation of about 10-15 students during the program. A faculty leader attends all program sessions, meets with students at least once during each weekday for 1-2 hours of group discussion and instruction, accompanies the students on site visits to embassies, think-tanks, and other organizations in D.C., advises students on a variety of academic and professional matters related to the program, reads the students' written work and provides a written evaluation of their academic and professional performance. This is a constant, "on-the-go" type of experience involving some very full days.

For faculty whose expertise involves active learning, this is an ideal environment in which to teach students how to take advantage of an experiential learning situation for the advancement of their academic and career goals. From a faculty member's perspective, it is an exceptional professional development opportunity that offers frequent contact with major political leaders from the grass roots to the national and international level.

Faculty leaders must have a graduate degree (Ph.D. strongly preferred) and experience teaching at the college level. Since programming and other arrangements are of a very flexible nature, often subject to last minute changes and even some cancellations, they must not only be energetic and enthusiastic, but also have a mature, positive approach in dealing with students.

The honorarium for the program is \$1,200. Housing is provided (usually a single in a shared apartment), as is a weekly, unlimited basic Metro pass. Participation in all program events is included. Housing includes a fully furnished apartment with basic cable television, high-speed internet, basic linens, local telephone service and easy access to the Washington Metro. Meals, transportation and other personal expenses are not included.

Faculty leaders are chosen on the basis of a variety of criteria. If a faculty leader comes with a pre-formed group of at least 10 students, such as a class his/her home institution, the faculty member is automatically hired to be in charge of his/her own students. Priority is then given to faculty who recruit less than ten students from their own institution. In that case, they may be assigned additional students coming without a faculty member from their school. In addition, we are seeking faculty to add to the diversity of backgrounds and interests of the staff as well as the majors of the students who enroll in the program.

Incentives are available to help recruit students. For every 10 students participating, their institution receives one full scholarship that might either be used for an 11th student or can be distributed among the other ten students to lower their overall costs. Some faculty who are compensated by their institution for teaching the students as part of a course sometimes donate their stipend as a scholarship to their students. On occasion, faculty who bring between five and nine students from their own institution can be hired and paid ½ of the usual stipend or be paid the full stipend if other students are added to their group. Please contact us for details. Many private schools encourage student participation by collecting the tuition for three credits and pay The Washington Center for the seminar from the tuition collected, keeping the difference. In that way, students are not “double-billed” and the program becomes quite affordable. Some public institutions have waived tuition or forwarded the tuition to The Washington Center with the students paying the difference. Most students are granted between 1-3 credits for this intensive 5 day seminar.

If you are interested, please return the Faculty Leader Response Form as soon as possible. We will begin making firm offers starting in early April or as enrollment figures warrant. If you are not available for this program, please pass this letter on to someone you think might be. We very much appreciate your consideration of this invitation. We look forward to hearing from you. For questions, please contact us at seminars@twc.edu . Copies of the response form may be found at <http://www.twc.edu/faculty> .

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eugene J. Alpert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'E' and 'A'.

Eugene J. Alpert, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President