

Spring Instructor Update 2016

Report from the Retreat: Planning for April 7-9, 2017 already!

Just three weeks ago, we welcomed many of you to the fourth annual instructor retreat: what a robust, gratifying and fun weekend. Thank you for coming and sharing your time and energy with us to improve the quality of teaching & learning at North House. Wondering what happened? It's hard to sum up, but a few key points:

- **Mark your calendars!** The Retreat is chock full of important things, and it's a lot to take in: per the universal recommendation, we'll extend the Retreat next year, starting at **9am on Friday, April 7 and wrapping up by noon on Sunday, April 9, 2017.**
- **How can we recruit more folks to attend next year?** While over 50 instructors were on campus during the Retreat, everyone felt that the presence of additional instructors from each of the teaching themes would be highly beneficial, not only for North House, but for the instructors themselves. Also, how can we share discussions, ideas and possibilities with those who are unable to attend?
- Lots of discussion about possibilities for the School Store in its new home, possible iterations of the proposed Apprenticeship/Fellowship program, & instructor development, all key priorities from the strategic plan.
- We spent a full day with Liesl Chatman and Erin Strauss, two educators we are lucky to work with. Starting with a review of fixed and growth mindsets from last year, the full group worked through methods of **providing adult students constructive feedback**. After lunch, instructors participated in skills practice sessions, experiencing (for the most part) a new skill area and all of the challenges that come with that learning. Afternoon sessions included planning with intention and exploring a series of critical questions for the teaching of craft. The discussions were full and far from over and will continue in the coming years!
- **"Science Fair:"** We tried an alternative format to the slideshow to share examples of work with one another, calling it the "science fair." Instructors were able to wander and chat with one other to discuss work samples in a more informal setting (similar to a science fair set up): it was almost universally agreed that this format, with a few tweaks, was a better way for folks to connect and a welcome break from sitting, so plan to see a version of it in the future.
- Sunday morning updates: we had a good amount of discussion about the upcoming 20th anniversary year. We aren't exactly sure what the specifics of the celebrations will be yet, but suffice to say there will be several, and might include an exhibit. A plan with more details will be the main topic of discussion at the **Instructor Gathering at the Wooden Boat Show on June 19 at 9am**. The book project has some funding in place and some initial concepts, but will likely include some of the aspects of the twentieth year celebration, so will be underway in the coming months, rather than published early in 2017 as was initially discussed.

Kate headed West: Recently, Kate Watson, our Communications Manager for the past six years let all of us know that she will be moving to Boise, ID late this coming summer. Thankfully, her plan is to continue to work for North House through early July, through the Wooden Boat Show and the launch of our new web site. She has been an incredible asset for North House, always willing to tackle projects and integrate new ideas/improvements. We will find an appropriate way to celebrate her many contributions! A job announcement to fill her (metaphorically) big shoes will be forthcoming. If you have any connections in Boise, let Kate know!

Join Us at the Wooden Boat Show: June 17-19, 2016

The classic event is coming up. We still have a few spots for demonstrators available (with stipends available). If you're interested, please contact Jessa, jfrost@northhouse.org asap. Schedule is Friday from noon-5pm and Saturday from 9am-4pm.

Instructor Gathering: June 19, 9am

We'll host our annual mimosas and doughnuts event for instructors on Sunday, June 19 at 9am. Conversation this year will be on planning for the 20th anniversary exhibit and celebrations. Please plan to attend AND be our guest at the Steam-bent Brunch following the gathering. RSVP to Jessa, jfrost@northhouse.org.

Instructor in Residence: Spend a long weekend crafting on campus. North House is offering sessions of the popular instructor-in-residence program from late June through the middle of September. Resident instructors demonstrate out on the commons from Thursday-Sunday, teach a mini course Saturday afternoon, and are encouraged to sell their wares. Sessions are filling up; for more information, contact program coordinator Matt Nesheim mnesheim@northhouse.org or call [218.387.9762](tel:218.387.9762).

Instructor Roster: The 2016 Instructor Contact Roster is now available [here](#). If there's an error, please let us know.

Instructor Handbook: At long last, we have finished our first edition of the Instructor Handbook, (now available [here](#).) which hopefully consolidates much of the logistical information, policies, etc. related to teaching here at North House. We will edit annually to keep it updated, but if you find things that are confusing, missing or otherwise need attention, please let us know. If you'd like to receive a print copy, let us know that too. You'll also find a reference copy in your folder when you check in. This handbook represents years of effort on the part of the whole North House community and is intended to make our internal processes more transparent, accessible and collaborative. We ask that you do not share copies of this handbook or the text within beyond the North House community.

MONEY for tools, equipment and classroom improvements!

We have a great opportunity this spring for your students to help support our mission: please encourage them to do so. All funds raised through the match will go directly into classroom improvements! When students who have never donated to NHFS make a gift before May 31, that gift will be matched dollar for dollar (up to \$5,000): this means up to \$10,000 in funding. Please help us to get the word out when you teach!

New Instructor Course Tuition Benefit: We are very pleased to announce that we have made some adjustments to the instructor course benefit in an effort to make it possible to see you more often on campus as students. This will replace the existing 50% tuition discount. If you taught here in 2015, you should be receiving a yellow gift certificate in the mail soon!

Established Instructor Benefit: All instructors will receive a gift certificate in the amount that reflects the amount they taught in the previous year, March 31-April 1. Gift certificates will be issued at the annual Instructor Retreat and are good for 12 months from date of issue. For instructors who do not attend the Retreat, we'll get the certificates in the mail soon thereafter.

Emerging Instructor Benefit: Available to intern alumni, assistant instructors and new instructors for the first 3 years. After three years, the established instructor benefit applies. This can be used in combination with the established benefit BUT the max of \$300 per year still applies. These are individually negotiated agreements of bartered value, similar to a work-study program but focused on specialized skills, like demonstrating, intern training, assisting in courses, etc.

the fine print

- Credits will be earned at 1 day at \$75, 2 days at \$150, 3 days at \$225, 4+ days at \$300. Partial days at partial rate. Max of \$300 per instructor per year.
- Courses with more than one instructor will be credited at a pro-rated rate (example: 2 instructors for 2 days; \$75 to each instructor).
- Instructors will need to register by phone or in person to use the credit.
- Instructors pay materials fees.
- This certificate IS transferrable to an immediate family member or apprentice, but at 50% of the value.
- If instructors need to redeem their benefit earlier than the schedule allows for (for a Jan-March course), individual exceptions can be made by request of the Program Director.
- Does not combine with other discounts (local, work study, intergenerational)

- Instructors fly standby: Just like staff and interns, instructor registrations do not count toward the minimum number of full paying students needed to launch the class. A maximum of 2 discounted spots (intern, instructor or staff) are available per course, with some exceptions on a case-by-case basis. Sign up early!
- North House reserves the ability to max out this program on an annual basis if requests are numerous. 2016 cap: \$10,000.