‘Equal Access’ workshop series to address crucial laws, issues

The Purdue Affirmative Action Office is sponsoring the Equal Access/Equal Opportunity Spring Workshop Series for 2004. The workshop series will feature several interactive sessions that will address issues that are often debated or misunderstood, such as the definitions of sexual harassment, discrimination, harassment, the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the problems caused by hate and bias.

The sessions are free, but pre-registration is requested so provisions can be made for the right amount of supporting materials.

The sessions are:

- **Affirmative Action 101**
  
  2-4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, in Room 218A, Stewart Center.
  
  This session will reveal whether the landscape of affirmative action has changed since the Supreme Court made its 2003 decisions involving the University of Michigan. It will also discuss the basics of affirmative action and its role in employment.

- **Hate & Bias**
  
  2-4 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24, in Room 311, Stewart Center.
  
  This workshop, led by Rob Mate, assistant dean of students, Join Robert Mate, assistant dean of students, and Diana Prieto, director of affirmative action, will review the effects of hate and bias on a college campus. Attendees will learn tools to help them address hate and bias in a positive way, to get positive results.

- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Overview**
  
  10 a.m.-noon, Thursday, March 11, in Room 258, Purdue Memorial Union.

This session is for anyone who ever wondered exactly what the Americans with Disabilities Act is and what it means for the rights of people who are disabled.

- **The ADA for Supervisors**
  
  2-4 p.m., Tuesday, March 23, in Room 311, Stewart Center.
  
  This employment-focused workshop is designed specifically for campus supervisors. It will explain what constitutes a disability, how to recognize an employee’s request for a reasonable accommodation, and what to do next.

- **Discrimination and Harassment: What You Don’t Know CAN Hurt You**
  
  10 a.m.-noon, Thursday, April 8, in Room 311, Stewart Center.
  
  Those who question the how harassment and discrimination are defined and whether there is any real difference between the two can attend this session for answers. Among questions to be answered: Can the two occur independently of each other? Does one necessarily lead to the other?

- **Sexual Harassment**
  
  10 a.m.-noon, Wednesday, April 21, in Room 311, Stewart Center.
  
  Leaders of this workshop will discuss what constitutes sexual harassment in the workplace and whether individuals can be held liable for their actions with regard to sexual harassment. The workshop will examine what the courts are saying and the policies and procedures that are in place at Purdue.

To register for any of the sessions or to request an accommodation, contact the Affirmative Action Office at 49-47253 (voice), 49-61343 (tty), or at aao@purdue.edu.