

Organization Development / Diversity

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

A NEW YEAR'S RESOURCE HIGHLIGHT: THE RETREAT ROOM AT EASTERN

"It's a facilitator's dream," says Alison Steinkamp, the Director of Strategic Planning and Operations for the School of Nursing. She's referring to Organization Development & Diversity's Retreat Room, a state-of-the-art meeting space at Eastern that tries to provide everything that groups might need when having a departmental retreat or strategic planning day.

The new year means new projects and new plans. It's always better to do major strategic planning away from the group's everyday work area, but when groups try and find an off-site meeting space they often find that hotel and conference centers are very expensive. Rental rooms may not have projectors, internet access, or office supplies available, or available only at an exorbitant cost. They certainly won't have access to Hopkins network drives.

Enter: the Retreat Room. The Retreat Room was set up by the office of Organization Development & Diversity specifically to provide the Hopkins staff and faculty with a dedicated, comfortable, quiet space to have off-site retreats and planning days.

Easily accessible via shuttle buses, there's also plenty of parking. On the low-tech side, the room features ergonomic chairs, modular tables, a conference phone, fax machine, copier, and is stocked with a wide range of office supplies.

The room also has high-tech tools. Two projection screens, video cameras, full audiovisual presentation equipment, a document camera, a wireless network and 20 laptops are always available. By prior arrangement, OD&D can help groups use "collaborative software" – web-based tools for brainstorming, prioritizing, decision-making and feedback.

Perhaps the biggest bonus of using the Retreat Room is that booking groups are eligible for a consultation with a member of the Organization Development staff. An OD&D staff member can help plan agendas and activities to make sure that groups maximize their retreat and meeting time. They can suggest tools and activities for brainstorming, flowcharting, creating organization charts, and strategic planning. OD&D can also provide skilled facilitation during retreats.

OD&D staff can also coordinate catering for you, and assist with other administrative details. Retreat Room costs are typically under \$50 per event. The room can accommodate up to 25 people. The Retreat Room does book quickly, so reservations should be made as soon as possible.

For more information or to book a date, please contact Nina Karp at nkarp@jhu.edu or (443) 997-4777. More details are also available at <http://www.jhuod.org>.

Organization Development & Diversity partners with JHU leaders to provide change management expertise and internal consulting to improve individual, group, and organizational effectiveness. They offer assistance with strategic planning and goal setting; retreat design and facilitation; organization assessment and redesign; group conflict management and team building; role definition and negotiation; diversity consultation; leadership coaching; work climate assessment; process analysis and redesign; mission and vision development, and program evaluation and curriculum development.

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