

Dear ,

In collaboration with the YWCA, **SPONSOR** is excited to be hosting a Witnessing Whiteness group for our **students/staff/faculty**. Since 2011, the YWCA has been sponsoring Witnessing Whiteness groups as part of its mission to eliminate racism. Witnessing Whiteness (WW) groups are white people coming together to do work around racism in a supportive, non-threatening setting. It is about learning to speak about race & racism, exploring white privilege, and practicing allying with sisters and brothers of color. WW groups are designed for individuals who identify as white.

The work of WW groups draws on the book *Witnessing Whiteness: The Need to Talk About Race and How to Do It*, by Shelly Tochluk. The book has 9 chapters and while group sessions draw on the book, the work is about participants' own lives, not textual analysis. During group meetings, participants consider their own lives in light of what they are learning through individual reflection as well as exercises that occur in pairs, triads, & the entire group.

The WW groups strive to:

- Create spaces where individuals who identify and experience the world as white persons can gain additional information, practice, scholarship and insight into creating a more just and equitable world;
- Invite participants into a community of other white people committed to positive change in their lives, workplace and region;
- Provide a loving and healing atmosphere to learn about and grow in understanding & skills in one of the most difficult topics in our country, race;
- Gain understanding of the intersections of race and systems;
- Encourage advocacy, collaboration, and strategies for change , while increasing knowledge;
- “Build knowledge, skills, capacities, and communities that support anti-racism practices” (Tochluk);
- Understand and practice interrupting racism, develop skills to act as agents of change

Structure and Logistics:

Two YWCA trained facilitators will guide the group through **ten two-hour sessions** over approximately 10 weeks--one for each chapter of the book plus one to reflect on the whole & look forward. It is understood that some participants will likely miss one or more sessions, but it is important to commitment to the group process and attend as often as possible.

The group will start on **DATE** and meet on **DAY OF WEEK** evenings of every week from **TIME**. The first meeting will take place in **LOCATION**. Location information for subsequent meetings will be communicated as it becomes available. There are no costs to participate in this program, the Brown School will provide the book *Witnessing Whiteness* for **free** to everyone who participates in the group. **To sign up, please contact: ORGANIZER CONTACT**

If you would like to join a Witnessing Whiteness Group but cannot attend **the x night** group at X, you can sign up directly with YWCA to attend one of the other community groups. Please contact Pat Cox at pat.cox@me.com and she can provide you with alternative locations as they come available.