August 2014

Dear Graduate Student Instructor,

The University of Michigan’s mission statement commits us to educating students who will “challenge the present and enrich the future.” That’s an ambitious goal yet it is the foundation of the work we do in classrooms, laboratories, studios, and in the field.

For decades, the University has invested in developing resources that can help you to succeed as a teacher. I encourage you to take advantage of the many opportunities the University offers to learn about teaching and to develop practices that will engage your students and help them take responsibility for their own learning. Among the resources you can tap into are:

**The Center for Research on Learning and Teaching** which offers workshops and online material on topics such as using technology effectively, diversity in the classroom, developing group projects, and evaluating students.

**Departments and Schools/Colleges** provide orientation programs that introduce you to policies, norms, and practices in a field or discipline.

**Faculty mentors** who are a valuable source of advice and can help you develop teaching strategies and techniques that are particularly effective in your discipline.

I hope you will utilize these resources, for their immediate usefulness and for the contributions they will provide to your development as a teacher over the course of your career.

At Michigan we want to educate students who will think critically and carefully and act thoughtfully and effectively in the world. We are glad you have joined us in taking on this important and rewarding work.

Sincerely,

Martha E. Pollack

MEP/cwp