Dear Tendaji Ganges:

Good day. I write to explore whether UM-Flint would be interested in cosponsoring a debate on affirmative action in early March, which would be held at the college but would also be open to the local community.

I am the Program Director for Toward A Fair Michigan. We are a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(c)(3) educational organization, which seeks to provide a civic forum for Michigan's citizens to learn about and discuss affirmative action, in anticipation of the November 2006 ballot initiative. Our primary activity is to set up debates in which we provide both a "pro" and a "con" speaker. Our speakers bureau includes experts in the legal and social aspects of affirmative action. Most of the speakers are university professors, although a few bring other backgrounds and expertise – most often from the legal field.

You can learn more about TAFM at our website: www.towardafairmichigan.org. We have hosted debates in Lansing, Traverse City, and East Lansing. The website includes audience feedback from those debates, demonstrating that audiences have valued the substantive, principled, and even-handed approach that our speakers bring to the debates. The debaters speak on their own behalf, and not on behalf of TAFM.

Upcoming debates are scheduled at Oakland University (cosponsors there include the College Democrats, College Republicans, and Association of Black Students) and Northwood University.

Guidelines with regard to cosponsors, debate format and moderator are also available on the website at these links: http://towardafairmichigan.org/CoSponsorGuidelines.html and http://towardafairmichigan.org/DebateGuidelines.html .

Ideally, if UM-Flint is interested in this idea, we would like to make this a real "town/gown" affair, but not only inviting the general public to attend, but by also inviting a local civic organization such as the local Chamber of Commerce to come on board as another cosponsor.

You may reach me at 517-749-6938 if you have questions. I will plan to follow up with you next week.

Thank you for considering this invitation.

Sincerely yours,

Carol Allen
TAFM Program Director