

1116-F1-392

Tracy Weyand* (tracy_veyand@baylor.edu). *A GREAT Idea.*

I began the GREAT (Graduate students Reaching for Excellence in Academics and Teaching) Program at Texas A&M University in 2012 (when I was a graduate student there) to provide other GTAs with relevant information and resources in a time efficient manner. It was the first GTA training program the mathematics department ever had. The material came directly from GTAs' questions, complaints, and suggestions. One goal of the GREAT Program was to provide information, instructions, and assistance regarding the technical details of teaching with the hope that the GTAs would then have more time to focus on teaching itself. This assumption was proved correct: When they had more time and knew help would be available, the GTAs became more concerned about student learning and trying different teaching styles. They also became more interested in teaching their own class; this number has increased by 300% since 2011. I will describe the initial program, the course this program has evolved into, and the positive effects it has had on the entire department. (Received August 30, 2015)