

From: [Campus Climate Proposal form](#)
To: [Libby Peterek](#); [Carrie Olson](#)
Subject: New submission from Campus Climate Proposals
Date: Tuesday, April 05, 2016 9:09:09 AM

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What is your affiliation with UW-Madison? For group submissions, please respond for main contact.

- Other

Describe the concept. If already in use here or elsewhere, please indicate this.

The initial plans can be started quickly with minimal costs. First, during SOAR, have a session for all freshman (and the parents) on multicultural and intercultural understanding. Second, create short video clips on the topic of "what it means to be culturally sensitive?"...These videos would be made by students and if you put one out per week (lets say on Wednesdays) and it would pop up on anyone using Campus WiFi and they had to watch the video before they can sign into their Net ID. Finally, the change that is desired for the campus is a metaphysical change and it doesn't happen overnight...there has to be a whole campus effort and not just a committee here or there. How can one do this? If each department was assigned one week to focus on multiple perspectives/cultural diversity in their classes (related to their discipline) imagine the overall impact in one school year. For example, Sept 5th-9th, Education department focuses on Multicultural Understandings, and October 7th-11th is the Engineering Department that focuses on Intercultural relationships....It is easy to put together a grid of all the departments and let them know their "week" and you could have a campus committee that helps choose topics for each department to focus on and provide appropriate materials, however UW has smart well educated professors, I think they can figure this out.

How would this affect cultural change on campus?

I would assume it would first bring awareness and then the ability to think from multiple perspectives...A lot of time insensitive acts rise out of ignorance and that is purely because of a lack of education. Those that are malicious in their acts need to understand it isn't wanted or accepted on campus and thus consequences need to follow.

For new ideas, how would you propose piloting this idea to see if it would work? If the idea is already in use at UW-Madison, how would you propose expanding or altering this program for greater impact?

The idea I mentioned has been piloted (and proven successful) in high schools around the country in efforts to improve reading. Brockton High School in MA. is the most well known for their work on all departments teaching one topic (being assigned weeks).

What resources would be needed to implement your suggestion?

Communication, small committee to set parameters, video clips from students, and a vision of what is the "take home message" we want the campus to hear.
On a side note, I wouldn't let the philosophers spend too much time debating and analyzing words such

as intercultural, multicultural, cultural, etc...pick one of the words, define it for the purpose of greater understanding between people and dive into action plans.

Please use this space for any additional information about your proposal that you wish to share:

I would suggest a couple of things as plans are being developed. First, it might be useful to look at the International Baccalaureate (IB) learner profile which is a pedagogical aspect based on experiences in culturally diverse settings of international schools. Second, UNESCO has seven guiding principals for international understanding that can be adapted to UW. Third, there has to be a 10,000 foot understanding that even in places like the Netherlands, where multicultural education has been infused into K-12 education for decades still have issues of bias and racism. That doesn't mean don't do anything, but there is no magic bullet other than educate, educate, educate. Finally, I believe that if the UW creates a "desired learner" profile (like the IB) and shared it with K-12 schools across Wisconsin with several action plans for High Schools the schools would respond and take action. Most of the top students in the state want to attend UW Madison so high schools will want to cater to the needs of the UW, which is developing and preparing students for success.