

From: [Campus Climate Proposal form](#)
To: [Libby Peterek](#); [Carrie Olson](#)
Subject: New submission from Campus Climate Proposals
Date: Thursday, April 07, 2016 1:27:56 PM

First name:

██████

Last name:

██████

Email address:

██████████

Phone number:

██████████

Group name (if applicable):

EcoWell@SoHE

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

- Student (including undergraduate, graduate, professional)

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

The EcoWell Practice CommYOUity (██████████ Jan 2016) currently serves to create a regular weekly space within SoHE to practice social justice habits (such as perspective taking, active listening, inter-group dialogue, intercultural conflict negotiation, empathy, collaboration, and making privilege and oppression visible based on our original curriculum on The Inner Experience of Social Justice in Everyday Moments) and to build genuine relationships across social identity and across hierarchy (students, staff, faculty, admin, learning from one another) through dialogue around "hot topics" such as #theRealUW, UW Politics, UW and Race, Privilege @ UW etc, that is shaped weekly by the demands of the hearts of the participants that are present.

How would this affect cultural change on campus?

The Practice CommYOUity should be expanded, uniquely tailored, and offered in various contexts across campus to provide regular space to the larger UW community to practice social justice habits, dialogue with others on campus in a non-hierarchical, non-graded, non for-credit space, and build relationships across social identity and across hierarchy (students, staff, faculty, admin learning from one another). Although many universities attempt to bring "diverse" individuals to campus, most campuses like UW are segregated in a de facto way. Findings real ways to unite and build close relationships between diverse people on campus is one of the most powerful ways UW can commit to creating a new climate on campus. The Practice CommYOUity offers one potentially intentional space for the strengthening of authentic relationships across social identity differences and for the practice of social justice habits as we collectively build a new story for the UW that is truly inclusive, equitable, and home for all.

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?

We have currently been piloting the Practice CommYOUity (with our innovative curriculum) at SoHE for the Spring 2016 semester and it has been very successful. Annette McDaniel, one of our assistant deans at SoHE, has promoted the Practice CommYOUity across SoHE as an exemplar of SoHE's commitment to social justice and an example of how we are making real progress towards a better UW

campus climate.

SoHE is uniquely positioned to pilot the Practice CommYOUUnity because we have 8 faculty and staff of diverse identities who have been trained by the University of Michigan Program on Inter-group Relations through their summer institute on inter-group dialogue. In addition [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. We both are unwaveringly committed and inspired to make the Practice CommYOUUnity available to all of campus and would base our scaling up of the idea on the way that the University of Michigan Program on Intergroup Relations program works so successfully. We would do an intensive summer training THIS summer to train facilitators from across campus and prepare them to start Practice CommYOUUnities in the Fall. We would continue to do weekly coaching and feedback with the facilitators throughout the 2016-2017 academic year and help them recruit more facilitators while opening up coaching opportunities for them. We could also have one large kick-off in the fall and again at the beginning of the spring semester to introduce the philosophy of the Practice CommYOUUnity to the larger UW community. The Practice CommYOUUnity aligns well with the Wisconsin Idea, as it builds capacity for all at UW to better serve communities and commit to social justice in their everyday moments as it is based on the idea of regular practice of social justice habits so that our UW community is building its capacity to practice social justice consistently everyday. As Cornel West has said "Never forget that what justice looks like in public is love". As we all know, love is not something you fall into, it takes work, it is a discipline, a practice. At the core of the idea of the EcoWell Practice CommYOUUnity is practicing social justice/ practicing love. Let's work together to truly embody the idea that "enough is enough" and to build UW into an exemplar campus of love and opportunity for all to flourish.

What resources would be needed to implement your suggestion?

We would need facilitator stipends for [REDACTED] for the hours we put into training other facilitators this summer and adapting the curriculum to the particular needs of different communities on campus. It may also be nice to have stipends for those training to be facilitators. We could also use a small budget for printing the curriculum, handouts, and promotion of the practice commYOUUnity. [REDACTED] we can get all of the space we need for free if it is in the School of Human Ecology and possibly even the printing budget as well. The stipends for facilitation would be most important because it is socially just to have fair pay for labor.

If this proposal was developed in partnership with any other organizations, please list them below.

We would love to partner with the Multicultural Student Center and LCICE, which I have been a part of for 4 years. Other partners are welcome as well!

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

I have faith in UW-Madison to turn this crisis into opportunity. Given that Dane County is the worst county in the nation for African Americans, if we are able to transform the UW and the surrounding community we will be making one giant leap forward for social justice in the larger US and world. I consider UW-Madison a home and I love so so many people on this campus. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. I am deeply committed to the long and arduous process of walking together towards a truly loving UW-Madison that practices social justice as a part of the fabric of its culture further illuminating the Wisconsin Idea. I strongly feel many of the ideas that will come from this campus climate call for proposals will make a real difference on this campus and I hope the Practice CommYOUUnity is strongly considered for its transformative potential to build relationships across social identity and across UW hierarchy and to practice social justice habits daily. Although the UW may be looking for "innovative" ideas, the Practice CommYOUUnity is based in the most simple and rudimentary idea that social change happens at the speed of trust and that relationships are the fulcrum of social justice. Our liberation is bound up with each other. I can only flourish if we flourish. I love you and am humbled by this opportunity to present the Practice CommYOUUnity to you for consideration.

With love,

