

**From:** [Campus Climate Proposal form](#)  
**To:** [Libby Peterek](#); [Carrie Olson](#)  
**Subject:** New submission from Campus Climate Proposals  
**Date:** Thursday, April 21, 2016 4:30:54 PM

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

- Academic Staff
- Other

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

Build on the UW South Madison Partnership by forming more collaborations with the South Madison community through churches, businesses, restaurants, multi-ethnic organizations and families in South Madison.

**How would this affect cultural change on campus?**

Multi-ethnic students (in order to be successful in maximizing their academic potential) need to interact, form support systems, be among people who look like them, speak their language, eat similar food, remind them of their families and who positively affirm them culturally, spiritually, and mentally.

**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 South Madison community is the most diverse neighborhood in Madison; fully able to provide affirming, supportive cultural experiences to all of the multi-cultural ethnic student groups at UW Madison. The UW South Madison Partnership Office already exists as a foundation on which to build. A multi-cultural outreach specialist would be housed there to facilitate collaborations, partnerships, and programs between the UW and the South Madison community in myriad ways to support multi-ethnic students on campus.

**What resources would be needed to implement your suggestion?**

1. Create a new position of Multi-cultural Outreach Specialist, with an office in the UW South Madison Partnership Office.
2. This person works with multi-ethnic students only.
3. The position creates collaborations, partnerships and programs between these students and the South Madison community, businesses, restaurants, organizations and families.
4. The position is given three years to be established and be successful in increasing multi-ethnic retention, graduation rates, along with the satisfaction rate of multi-ethnic students studying at UW Madison.
5. The approval of the Chancellor's office for this position to specifically search out and implement creative and cultural specific connections for African Americans, Asian Americans, Spanish speakers, Bi-racial and International students with the South Madison community.

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

This proposal will be developed in partnership with other South Madison churches, businesses, organizations and families in order to be successful. As a current outreach specialist to under represented groups in the Department of Medicine, I have an extensive, proven record of connecting people and organizations to the UW-Madison.

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

This position is unique from the Director of Community Relations at UW Madison. My vision is to work only with multi-ethnic students to provide and connect them with innovative support systems that already exist on the south side of Madison. These support systems will affirm them in their cultural identities, strengthen their academic focus and increase their graduation rates.

(They will be based on prioritizing the most critical needs of multi-ethnic students at UW Madison and working to meet those needs.) One example is that homesick students can eat their familiar foods in a variety of restaurants on the south side. The UW South Madison Partnership Office can be a hub to get questions answered about cultural services, and multi-cultural needs, as well as being informed about community festivals and other activities. UW students need the opportunity to interact with people, places and ideas that are similar to their families, homes and backgrounds.