

A GROWTH AGENDA FOR WISCONSIN

GROWING PEOPLE, JOBS, & COMMUNITIES

Growth Agenda Action Step #4:

Model Inclusive Excellence in UW System Education and Employment

Brief summary: The UW System must prepare its students for responsible, ethical, and engaged citizenship to meet the university's broad educational goal of promoting excellence in professional, civic, and personal life. To succeed in the 21st century, students need certain knowledge, skills, and multicultural perspectives – including the ability to empathically put themselves in another's shoes. Inclusive Excellence, the UW System's successor to Plan 2008, is designed to help UW institutions establish a set of comprehensive, well-coordinated strategic actions that foster greater diversity, equity, inclusion, and accountability at every level of institutional life. Inclusive Excellence builds on two ongoing projects that foster positive campus change, the Equity Scorecard and Campus Climate projects.

Progress to date and future plans:

- The Equity Scorecard Project is a primary means for advancing this work. Eleven institutions are participating in the Equity Scorecard project to foster institutional change and close gaps in achievement. Six institutions began the project in 2006 and another five began during summer 2008. Institutions in the first group are in the process of identifying and implementing changes in practice and interventions. Institutions in the second group are in the problem identification and report writing phases of the project. Participating Institutions: UW Colleges, UW-Eau Claire, UW-La Crosse, UW-Milwaukee, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Parkside, UW-Platteville, UW-River Falls, UW-Stout and UW-Superior. A third group of institutions will join the project in Fall 2009.
- The first phase of the Campus Climate study is complete. Participating institutions – UW Colleges, UW-La Crosse, UW-Milwaukee, UW-Oshkosh, and UW-Stevens Point – reported preliminary findings to the Board of Regents at its December 2008 meeting. Four additional campuses – UW-Eau Claire, UW-Parkside, UW-River Falls, and UW-Whitewater – plan to conduct the survey in Spring 2009.
- The Inclusive Excellence Feedback Group met in February 2009 to begin discussions about Inclusive Excellence and campus visits. The group is composed of two representatives per institution, plus an additional three to four student members. Feedback Group representatives are developing plans for campus visits during fall 2009.
- Systemwide discussions about strategies for building on Plan 2008 and integrating its final results into the development of Inclusive Excellence occurred during Board of Regents in March 2009.

Related funding:

- UW System Closing the Achievement Gap Grants
- University of Southern California Center for Urban Education/Ford Foundation: Wisconsin Transfer Equity Study

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