To find that better way, members of the NME project have broken up into several work groups. They are examining a variety of issues including educational opportunities in non-profit management (e.g., degree, non-degree, certificate programs and continuing education), creation of a learning center to increase understanding of the non-profit sector, strengthening diversity in nonprofits (both locally and nationally) and nonprofit service models elsewhere in the country. They will bring their recommendations back to the full group in early spring with an implementation phase to follow. It’s expected that UWM will continue to take part in the project, thanks to The Milwaukee Idea.

"At the same time, agencies were experiencing cuts in funding. They were being asked to do more and more with less and less," said lange. "None of my education – I was a social work student – ever prepared me for a management role. I’ve had to learn everything I needed by going out and finding it. It’s learning through experience and doing.

The foundations responded with the Nonprofit Management Fund which provides grants on an agency by agency basis. The fund was well received, Maryl said. But as the role of the nonprofits continued to expand, the foundations decided it was time to take a look at the nonprofit sector as a whole. They found a variety of resources, ranging from workshops and seminars to degree programs in related fields to a certificate in non-profit management. It was clear, however, that a broader and more organized approach was needed.

"There’s no one place to go in Milwaukee to get a handle on what you need," confirmed Marilyn Lange, director of Village Adult Services and a member of the project’s steering group. "You’re always kind of putting it together piece by piece.

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Quick WINS: A Suggestion Box for the 21st Century

Do you have a good idea for UWM? Can it be accomplished in a relatively short time and without great expense? If so, you just may be the creator of a new Quick WIn, Quick WINS, (the WINS stands for Ways to Implement New Solutions), grew out of the planning process for the Milwaukee Idea.

The project is aimed at generating small, manageable and positive changes in UWM policies, facilities and operations. "We encourage participation in this project from the entire campus – faculty, staff and students," said Professor Renee Gratza, chair of the new Quick WIn Committee. "Here’s a great way to speak up – a way that is visible and accessible. Quick WInS is an opportunity for all of us to put an idea forward and know it will be considered."

When you submit an idea for Quick WInS, it will be reviewed by the Quick WIn committee which is composed of faculty, academic and classified staff and students. If the committee determines that your idea meets the criteria of a Quick WIn, it will be designated as such and forwarded onto the appropriate department or unit. The department, in turn, is asked to respond to the committee within 30 days and explain whether or not the idea can be implemented. If the idea is not a Quick WIn, it is passed on as a suggestion and the department determines how to handle it. In either case, all submitters will receive a response on the status of their submissions.

Several Quick WIns are about to be or have already been implemented. They include:

- Developing an award to recognize students, faculty, staff and community members whose efforts help strengthen diversity on campus and in the community. (Suggested by Program Assistant Bethania Joseph.)
- Making it easier to electronically access the campus from home. A CD that allows users to do so is now available from the Library. (Suggested by Letters & Science Associate Dean Charles Schuster.)
- Publishing a directory of UWM employees who are also alumni. (Suggested by Program Manager Diane Highland.)
- A self-guided walking tour map of UWM and the surrounding neighborhoods designed for prospective students and their families who may not have time for a guided tour. (Suggested by Professor Lauren Glass.)
- Creating a shipping and packaging service in a convenient on-campus location. (Suggested by Professor Steve Perez.)

"Sometimes it’s the little ideas that can make the biggest difference," Gratza says. "So don’t hesitate to send us a Quick WIn. We want to hear from you!"

If you would like to submit a concept packet, request an information packet from the Milwaukee Idea office, B73 Engelmann, 229-6913 or e-mail mke-idea@uwm.edu. Concept packets must be submitted by March 15.

The Milwaukee Idea: Look who’s talking!

There’s a definite buzz in the air these days, and it’s about UWM. It’s about a new way of doing things, about a fresh and imaginative approach to connecting greater Milwaukee with the university. It’s about how, over the past year, the Milwaukee Idea has brought over 200 people from the community to the campus. They’ve served on action teams and affinity groups and offered their perspectives on how UWM can collaborate with the community to improve the quality of life for all.

Along with faculty, staff and students, they’ve helped plan programs and projects in areas ranging from public health to education to economic opportunity to the environment. And they’ve carried their enthusiasm back with them, telling the story of how The Milwaukee Idea is already making the community and the university powerful partners.

Henry Monaco
Former President, United Way of Greater Milwaukee
Consortium for Economic Opportunity Action Team

I found it totally invigorating – the idea of integrating the university into the community and then living it. I found the work to be very challenging and very fruitful. There was a lot of enthusiasm on the part of community participants. I saw a lot of dedication and commitment. As UWM embraced the community, the community embraced UWM in a whole new way. If we’re really going to make change here, we need to do a lot more of this kind of collaboration.

Anne Kingsbury
Executive Director, Woodland Pattern Literary Center
Cultures and Communities Action Team

The Milwaukee Idea has brought a real sense of anticipation to the university - there’s the possibility of good things to come. I really believe in the crawl of faith. I don’t think you’re going to get immediately large things happening. I think you have to build step-by-step. I’m a leader and a quilter, so I work in very small increments and after a while you’ve built something. Maybe that’s the way The Milwaukee Idea is going to be successful.

Johna Rogovin
Director, Southeastern Wisconsin Community Health Charities
Healthy Choices Action Team

For me, it was very, very exciting. It hasn’t been my experience to see people with such a broad range of expertise working together. To bring all of those people together and have a lot to talk about was just remarkable. I felt some really big thinking had gone on. I believe The Milwaukee Idea has made a significant difference in Milwaukee, even though it is still in its infancy. I think there are many people like myself who have a renewed interest in the University and want to be part of this ambitious idea. This is something that will be enduring.

Michael Morgan
President, Spirit of Milwaukee
KnowledgeFest Action Team

In conversations with the Chancellor, I indicated to her that I thought it was wonderful that the university was looking for ways to partner with the community and weave its mission into that of other institutions in the community. I think that Chancellor Zimpher has succeeded in creating a buzz in the community, a very positive buzz. I think a lot of folks are saying that UWM is serious about not only educating its students, but also forging relationships with the community in a way that will allow for a much richer educational experience.
Quick WINS: A Suggestion Box for the 21st Century

Do you have a good idea for UWM? Can it be accomplished in a relatively short time and without great expense? If so, you just may be the creator of a new Quick Win. Quick WINS, (the WINS stands for Ways to Implement New Solutions), grew out of the planning process for The Milwaukee Idea.

The project is aimed at generating small, manageable and positive changes in UWM policies, facilities and operations. We encourage participation in this project from the entire campus – faculty, staff, and students,” said Professor Renee Gratzi, chair of the new Quick Wins Committee. “Here’s a great way to speak up – a way that is visible and accessible. ‘Quick Wins is an opportunity for all of us to put an idea forward and know it will be considered.’

When you submit an idea for Quick Wins, it will be reviewed by the Quick Wins committee which is composed of faculty, academic and classified staff and students. If the committee determines that your idea meets the criteria of a Quick Win, it will be designated as such and forwarded onto the appropriate department or unit. The department, in turn, is asked to respond to the committee within 30 days and explain whether or not the idea can be implemented.

If the idea is not a Quick Win, it is passed on as a suggestion and the department determines how to handle it. In either case, all submitters will receive a response on the status of their submissions. Several Quick Wins are about to or have already been implemented. They include:

- Developing an award to recognize students, faculty, staff and community members whose efforts help strengthen diversity on campus and in the community. (Suggested by Program Assistant Berthina Joseph.)
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- Creating a shipping and packaging service in a convenient on-campus location. (Suggested by Professor Steve Perry.)
- ‘Sometimes it’s the little ideas that can make the biggest difference,’ Gratzi says. “So don’t hesitate to send us a Quick Win. We want to hear from you!”

If you would like to submit a concept, please e-mail quickwin@uwm.edu, phone 229-2589 or mail The Milwaukee Idea, Englmann B73, UWM, P.O. Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201.
To find that better way, members of the NME project have broken up into several work groups. They are examining a variety of issues including educational opportunities in nonprofit management (e.g., degree, non-degree, certificate programs and continuing education), creation of a learning center to increase understanding of the nonprofit sector, strengthening diversity in nonprofits (both locally and nationally) and nonprofit service models elsewhere in the country. They will bring their recommendations back to the full group in early spring with an implementation phase to follow.

It's expected that UWM will continue to take part in the project, thanks to The Milwaukee Idea.

The Milwaukee Idea: Partnering with Milwaukee's nonprofits

The power of The Milwaukee Idea to generate community partnerships is being demonstrated in an exciting new effort to create educational and support services for nonprofit groups.

Representatives from a number of schools and colleges at UWM are working with a consortium of over 30 nonprofit organizations from metropolitan Milwaukee as well as with several local foundations on the Nonprofit Management Education Project. It is aimed at enhancing effective management, governance and leadership in the nonprofit sector.

The idea for the project was percolating in the community just as The Milwaukee Idea, with its mission of community-campus engagement, was taking shape. Enthusiastic about the possibilities for UWM as The Milwaukee Idea enters its second round in this leading effort to build community-campus engagement, it is expected that three or four ideas will be selected in a competitive process that begins with the submission of concept papers (due no later than March 15). A "Reading Group" convened by the Chancellor will evaluate each one and select a small number to move forward.

In the spirit of the first round of The Milwaukee Idea, Round Two will focus on a search for initiatives with these characteristics:

More big ideas wanted!

"Our goal is nothing less than to change forever the quality of our life together - yours and mine, theirs and ours - by endeavoring to join the urban renaissance of Milwaukee, and the transformation of ourselves as Milwaukee's and someday the nation's premier urban university."

Since Chancellor Nancy Zimpher spoke those words to a campus-wide audience in September 1998, The Milwaukee Idea has involved over 500 people on 38 committees, action teams and working groups. We have brought over $6 million to the table and proposed wide-ranging action on a number of fronts important to the community.

We aren't stopping here.

More "Big Ideas" are on the horizon for UWM as The Milwaukee Idea enters its second round in this leading effort to build community-campus engagement.

UWM has been involved in a number of fronts important to the community – yours and mine, theirs and ours – by endeavoring to join the urban renaissance of Milwaukee, and the transformation of ourselves as Milwaukee’s and someday the nation’s premier urban university."

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