



The DreamUp WI leadership team seeks out, facilitates, and supports dreamers to develop the top 10 proposals that could help 10,000 Dane County families increase their net income by 10% by 2020.

DreamUp Leadership Team

Lawrence Berger | UW Institute for Research on Poverty



Berger is the Director of the Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP) and Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor in the School of Social Work. His research focuses on how economic resources, sociodemographic characteristics, and public policies affect parental behaviors and child and family well-being. He aims to inform public policy to improve family well-being.

Hilary Shager | UW Institute for Research on Poverty



Shager, Associate Director of Programs and Management, and Researcher at IRP, manages the DreamUP WI Initiative. Prior, as associate director of the La Follette School of Public Affairs, she oversaw school programming, taught several courses, and directed Wisconsin state legislature outreach programs. Shager was also a research analyst at the WI Department of Children and Families.

Laura Dresser | COWS and UW School of Social Work



Dresser is the Associate Director of COWS and Assistant Clinical Professor of Macro-Practice in the School of Social Work. She is a labor economist and expert on low-wage work and workforce development. Dresser studies connections between care, jobs, and wages and develops reforms in these arenas. Dresser is a co-editor of *The Gloves-Off Economy: Workplace Standards at the Bottom of America's Labor Market*.

Rebecca Schwei | UW Institute for Research on Poverty



Schwei, Research and Policy Coordinator at IRP, is responsible for publications and coordinates much of IRP's work as the National Poverty Research Center funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Prior to joining IRP, Schwei worked for over 25 years in social services through various positions in direct service, government, and research organizations at the local, state, and national levels.

Leslie Orrantia | UW Office of Community Relations



Orrantia, Director of Community Relations, is the point of contact with county, city, and community entities on behalf of Chancellor Blank. She facilitates meaningful collaborations between campus and community to expand institutional access and community engaged scholarship. Her background includes public relations, business administration, marketing, and communications.

J. Michael Collins | UW Center for Financial Security



Collins is the Fetzer Family Chair of Consumer Finance. He is the Faculty Director of the Center for Financial Security and a professor at the La Follette School of Public Affairs. He studies consumer and household finance and is a leading expert on financial coaching with economically vulnerable populations.

Peng Her | UW Institute for Research on Poverty



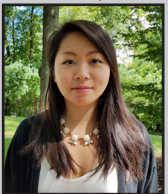
Her, an IRP Community Relations Coordinator, has worked with officials, residents, and service providers to remove barriers to success for 15 years. He helped establish Hmong American studies at UW-Madison and Edgewood College and was associate director of the Center for Resilient Cities. He is on the Morgridge Center Advisory board, Badger Rock Middle School board, and several other boards in the community.

Bridgit Van Belleghem | UW Institute for Research on Poverty



Van Belleghem brings more than 10 years of experience in public service and outreach to her role as Community Relations Coordinator. She won several awards as a land use planner for Marin County, CA, and a senior planner at the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission in Dane County. Her background includes collaborative land use planning, public participation, communications, and events.

Vee Yeo | UW Institute for Research on Poverty



Yeo is the Research Lab Manager at the IRP. She provides administrative assistance and research support for IRP faculty, staff, and students. She has a wide range of experiences, including working for state agencies, non-profit organizations, and administrative offices. Yeo holds a B.A. in legal studies from UW-Madison.



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