The DreamUp WI Proposal Review Committee is charged with reviewing & selecting the top 10 proposals that could help 10,000 Dane County families increase their net income by 10% by 2020.

MEET THE COMMITTEE FACILITATOR | Annette Miller
Annette Miller is the DreamUp Review Committee facilitator and convener. As CEO and founder of EQT By Design, LLC, Miller’s passion is ensuring inclusion and engagement are front and center in her work. She brings 25 years of strong professional policy and analytic skills, and a wide network of community, government, and business relationships, especially with Dane County’s diverse populations. Miller previously worked for Madison Gas & Electric as the Emerging Markets and Community Development Director, where she built partnerships in energy, sustainability, and inclusion of their emerging customer markets. Formerly, she was an aide to the City of Madison Mayor.

Review Committee Members

Rebecca Blank | UW–Madison
In her five years as leader of UW–Madison, Chancellor Blank has worked to improve access and affordability, build educational excellence, and nourish innovation and discovery. An internationally respected economist, she has worked in three presidential administrations and served as faculty at Princeton, Northwestern, and the University of Michigan, where she was dean of the Ford School of Public Policy.

Cedric Ellis | CUNA Mutual Group
Ellis, Executive Vice President & Chief Enterprise Services Officer at CUNA Mutual Group, is responsible for shared services. He serves on the CUNA Mutual Foundation Board, is on the Board of Big Brother Big Sisters, and serves on the Governor’s Council on Workforce Investment. Ellis has also held senior roles at Wachovia, Fireman’s Fund, Aetna, and The Hartford.

Jan Greenberg | UW–Madison OVCRGE
Greenberg, Associate Vice Chancellor for Social Sciences, provides leadership in social sciences and interdisciplinary research across campus, including overseeing divisional area recruitment and retention, as well as the Fall Competition and UW2020 awards. He is a professor in the School of Social Work, where he researches challenges faced by families of persons with mental illness.

Rich Halverson | UW–Madison School of Education
As Associate Dean of Innovation at the School of Education and Professor of Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis, Halverson researches the practical wisdom of school leaders with distributed leadership and how digital media tools change education. He is a faculty affiliate in the Educational Psychology and Curriculum and Instruction Departments and a fellow at the WI Institute for Discovery.

Janel Heinrich | Public Health Madison & Dane County
As Director of Public Health Madison & Dane County, Heinrich is responsible for assuring the health and well-being of Dane County residents are prioritized. To achieve this, she emphasizes health and racial equity as a foundational element of the Department’s work. Prior to joining PHMDC, Heinrich conducted research and managed public health programs on the California-Mexico border and in Chicago.

Forbes McIntosh | Government Policy Solutions
McIntosh is President of Government Policy Solutions, a Wisconsin based government relations/lobbying firm with 20+ years experience at all levels of government. He represents corporate and professional association interests, including the Dane County Cities’ & Villages’ Association. McIntosh has also served on several nonprofit boards with a focus on improving economic development and employment opportunity.
Review Committee Members, continued

Jennifer Noyes | UW–Madison College of Letters & Science
Noyes, the Associate Dean of Operations and Staff for the College of Letters & Science (L&S), is a senior advisor to the dean and coordinates L&S administrative units. She is a distinguished researcher with, and former associate director of, the UW–Madison Institute for Research on Poverty. Previously, she was a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute Welfare Policy Center and has helped lead several WI state agencies.

Parmesh Ramanathan | UW–Madison Graduate School
As Associate Dean of the Graduate School, Ramanathan oversees admissions, academic services, program planning and assessment, and data analytics. He serves on the Graduate School and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education leadership teams. He is also a professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Saran Ouk | conNEXTions
Ouk is the founder of conNEXTions, where she dedicates herself to helping underrepresented young adults achieve their career goals through mentoring, financial literacy, networking, and professional development. She is passionate about giving back to the community, volunteers as a Big Sister, and serves on the Madison Vending Oversight Committee.

Wes Sparkman | Dane County Office For Equity & Inclusion
Sparkman, the Director of the Grigsby Office For Equity & Inclusion, brings experience in equal employment opportunity and public administration. He serves on the YMCA board and in the Madison Network of Black Professionals. He is on the Dane County Business Opportunity Forum and is Vice President of the Madison Rotary Foundation. Previously, he served on the Madison Police and Fire Commission for 10 years.

Eugenia Podestá | Synergy CoWorking Space
Podestá, owner of Synergy CoWorking Space, facilitates strategic relationships and coaches entrepreneurs and professionals, especially women and people of color. She has 20+ years of nonprofit and international development experience. Podestá is also a senior director of economic empowerment and entrepreneurship at Vital Voices Global Partnership in Washington D.C.

Karen Timberlake | Michael Best Strategies LLC
Timberlake, a Principal at Michael Best Strategies LLC, helps clients develop shared value business strategy and supports initiatives in health care transformation. Previously, she directed the UW Population Health Institute at the School of Medicine and Public Health. She also was WI Department of Health Services secretary and Office of State Employment Relations director.