Inclusive Environment Inventory

Use the Inclusive Environment Inventory to evaluate your unit. The inventory is comprised of 10 sections, and it takes about 15 minutes to complete in full.

Step 1: As a group, briefly discuss your ideas on how to advance equity within your unit. Then, briefly review the sections of the inventory and identify which sections most closely align with your groups' ideas. Your group may choose to focus on a few sections or complete all sections.

Step 2: Each member of the team should complete the inventory individually:

To start, read each question and check *yes* or *no*. If you can check *yes*, but you believe there is need for improvement, check *no*. If an item does not apply to your unit, cross it out or skip it. Use the blank spaces to add additional items. Items shaded gray are written in reverse.

As you respond to each question, consider whether you believe that it should be a priority for you unit. In the *Priority* column, put an "x" by each of those items.

After you have finished the inventory, review the items you identified as priorities. Narrow your priority selections to three (3) or four (4) items.

Step 3: After everyone has completed the inventory, share, and discuss your selections. Then, collectively choose priority items to implement. To help your unit identify action items that both have the greatest impact and are feasible to implement, have each of the team members plot their selections on the Feasibility/Impact Worksheet and discuss the placements. We recommend that your unit collectively agree to a few items action items that are easier to implement and one or two action items that are likely to have significant impact but may be less feasible to implement.

Step 4: Create implementation plans with timelines for each item. Use the Implementation Plan Template for guidance.

Step 5: Share your plans with stakeholders. This not only increases transparency, but it also creates opportunities for collaboration, synergy, and accountability.

Step 6: Get started on the implementation.

ITEMS RELATED TO THE UNIT'S ENGAGEMENT WITH THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Section 1: Data-Informed Strategies

Data can help us identify where to begin our work. To advance equity and maximize resources, we can target efforts toward groups/areas where there are gaps in participation and outcomes. Such efforts often increase engagement and outcomes for non-targeted groups as well. Furthermore, data can be used to inform our practice and evaluate whether our efforts are effective.

	Yes	No	Priority
Does your unit use data to examine participation? Is data broken down by participants':			
School/college or program?			
Race, gender, national origin, age, etc.?			
Years of teaching, job title, course format (e.g., online), campus (e.g., Waukesha)?			
Does your unit develop strategies to engage instructor groups who do not use your unit?			
Does your unit use data to target instructional support in areas of known inequities? For example,			
Courses associated with D, F, and W's?			
Courses/programs associated with achievement gaps? Specifically, based on:			
Race/ethnicity?			
Gender?			
Income/social class?			
Disability?			
International status?			
Age?			
Sexual orientation?			
Gender identity?			
Other identities or statuses? (e.g., parental, veteran, live on/off campus)			
Intersectional identities? (e.g., race and class, race, and gender identity)			
Does your unit use UWM data (e.g., NSSE, exit surveys, etc.) to inform practice?			
Does your unit use data to evaluate effectiveness of your services? For example,			
Does your unit give pre/post-assessments to participants?			
Does your unit disaggregate participant data by demographics, academic program, etc. to identify implicit biases or blind spots?			
Does your unit seek feedback from participants of diverse backgrounds and experiences to inform practice?			
Does your unit examine participants' course outcomes (student grades) before and after their engagement with your unit?			

Section 2: Supporting Colleagues

We all have a responsibility to foster a campus culture and climate that is supportive and collaborative. To do this, we make efforts to engage colleagues from other units. We anticipate barriers and challenges our colleagues may experience and we respond in ways to help overcome barriers. We celebrate successes and lead our colleagues and our campus in areas where we have expertise.

	Yes	No	Priority
Do staff in your unit foster connections with colleagues?			
Do staff know who to contact for help with equity topics outside the scope of your unit?			
Do staff strategically build relationships and partnerships with colleagues to advance equity goals?			
Does your unit go where employees are?			
Does your unit offer programs/services in different spaces on campus?			
Does your unit offer virtual programs and services?			
Does your unit proactively reach out to employees and targeted?			
Does your unit promote resources strategically, timely, and often to promote equity and engagement and to reach employees when they are receptive and available?			
Does your unit recognize employees who utilize your resources?			
Are certificates provided upon completion?			
Are semi-annual notifications provided to deans and division heads?			

Section 3: Engaging with Students

For students to see the university as a home, employees must do so as well. Regardless of our roles, we all can foster a campus culture and climate that is invigorating for all students and is committed to their success. We can be engaged in the entire student experience. We also can make sure we know how to navigate the basic operations and resources to assist students and our colleagues in helping students navigate the institution.

	Yes	No	Priority
Do employees intentionally engage students outside of their office or classroom?			
Do employees regularly attend campus events for students?			
At campus events, do staff striver to foster a sense of belonging? For example,			
Do staff engage with students they don't know?			
Do staff scan and engage with students who seem alone or lost?			
Do staff facilitate connections between students?			
Does your unit offer students opportunities that have financial and academic benefits?			
Does your unit offer employment opportunities to students?			
Does your unit offer internships and/or course credit for engaging in career related projects or work experience?			
Is your unit familiar with campus resources that support students' academic success?			
(e.g., Student Success Center, library, computer labs, career center, counseling center,			

accessibility resource center, food pantry, financial aid, emergency grants, incident		
reporting, etc.)		
Do employees have contact information and office locations for each resource?		
Have employees visited the resources to help employees and students better navigate them?		

Section 4: Promoting Inclusive Teaching Practices

Students who feel as though they do not belong can gain a sense of belonging through authentic relationships with employees who have high expectations and offer affirming messages. Instructors are particularly impactful on students' sense of belonging. Additionally, students are expected to navigate complex and often unfamiliar systems in college. Time spent learning how to navigate systems can take away from studying. Students who have competing responsibilities and limited resources may struggle to access resources. Units can support students with information, flexibility, and care. Thus, it is critical to advance practices that support equity in the classroom.

	Yes	No	Priority
When leading trainings and events, do staff model inclusive practices?			
Do staff state their pronouns and explain why they share pronouns?			
Do staff acknowledge the land and explain why they acknowledge the land?			
Do staff use closed captions?			
Do staff follow universal design principles when presenting?			
Do efforts not only focus on fostering equity, but also on:			
Strategies for instructors to respond to hate, biases, and microaggressions expressed in class.			
Strategies for instructors to respond to hate, biases, and microaggressions directed at them while teaching.			
Strategies to help instructors respond when they use a microaggression and realize they've caused harm.			
Does your unit prompt instructors to understand students' experiences in college? Specifically:			
Differences between learning experiences in high school versus college.			
How first-generation students may not have a social network to help them understand how college works.			
The cost of attendance compared to what students reasonably can afford to pay with student loans and part-time employment.			
Transportation challenges (e.g., bus routes).			
Challenges for specific groups of students (e.g., parents, foster youth, veterans, etc.)			
Technology issues.			
Basic needs challenges.			
Are equity principals embedded in all resources and training materials?			
Do efforts encourage instructors to have course policies that promote equity? For example:			
Acceptance of missed or late work for emergencies beyond a student's control?			
Grading strategies that assess desired course learning outcomes (as opposed to			

technology skills, timeliness, speed, grammar, or good fortune of not have an			
emergency during the semester)?			
Have policies been reviewed for inherent structural biases? (i.e., though applied			
consistently, some student groups benefit more than others) (e.g., reducing points			
for students who come to class late and not allowing exceptions; student relies on			
bus for transportation)			
Are policies framed with the assumption that most students have good intentions?			
(e.g., "no late work" versus "contact me in advance if you have an exceptional			
circumstance")			
Are consequences proportionate to behaviors? (e.g., if students are one day late,			
what will happen?).			
Are policies on exceptions explained to students (to prevent students from not			
seeking help because they assume there are no exceptions)?			
Do efforts encourage practices that support students who are struggling? For example:	Ш		
Posting hotline information in both highly utilized and discrete locations where			
students can snap photos and access help? (e.g., suicide, sexual assault, food			
assistance, housing assistance).			
Proactively identifying and reaching out to students who may be absent, struggling,			
or experiencing trauma? (e.g., change in behavior, decline in performance, etc.)			
Providing feedback/grades early in the semester and throughout the semester?			
Using alerts in Navigate.			
Reporting elevated concerns to the Dean of Students Office.			
Do efforts encourage practices that foster sense of belonging? For example:			
Having clean and inviting physical spaces.			
Using self-disclosure and personal narratives to destigmatize challenges and			
increase sense of belonging (without glorifying risky behaviors).			
Honoring privacy and trust (e.g., do not vent about students in front of other			
students)?			
Do efforts encourage practices that support students who have few financial means? For			
example:			
Using free or low-cost course materials such as open-sourced texts, library reserves,			
etc.?		<u> </u>	
Conducting a technology survey to identify students without laptops or Wi-Fi and			
refer them to the UWM Laptop and Wi-Fi hotspot loan programs?		 	
Designing lessons, curriculum, and/or co-curricular experiences that are meaningful			
to students from low-income backgrounds (e.g., service, social causes, career			
interests)?			
Each semester, informing students of the 100% and 50% refund periods for dropped			
courses?			
Do efforts encourage practices that support first-generation students? For example:			
Spelling out acronyms and avoiding, defining, or explaining jargon?			
Using Canvas for all courses?			
Sharing how and why students should contact you and when they should expect a			
response.			
Explaining what they should do if they need to miss a course or come to class late.			
Explaining what office hours are and why students use them? (Time set aside to			
assist students, answer questions about careers, etc.)			
Framing advice to students with personal experiences? (e.g., When I was studying			
for this, I found tutoring to really helped me).			

Knowing basic information about:		
Purchasing texts and course materials?		
Tutoring?		
Writing support?		
Accessibility & accommodations?		
Computer labs?		
Printing resources?		
Policies on exams, absences, incompletes, etc.?		
Add/drop/withdrawal deadlines?		
1 11		
Tuition refund deadlines?		
Financial aid and applying for scholarships		
Parking and transportation options?		
Do efforts encourage practices that support students who manage several		
responsibilities? For example:		
Having routine assignment deadlines (i.e., weekly assignments due on Wednesdays)		
Breaking up large assignments into smaller parts.		
Sharing with students your communication plan if a course must be cancelled.		
If classes are cancelled, informing students well in advance.		
Offering office hours by appointment for students who are busy during regular		
ones.		
Do efforts encourage practices that reduce disparities based on identity? For example:		
Assigning roles in group projects (being mindful of assigning gendered roles).		Ш
Counting to 5 before calling on students to speak.		
Priming students for desired engagement (Inform students that you seek different		
voices and diverse perspectives).		
Selectively calling on students so a few students do not dominate discussions.		
Reducing stereotype threats by informing students that there is no inherent bias in the course materials.		
Do efforts encourage practices that supplement student learning? For example:		
Introducing supplemental self-directed learning tools (e.g., videos, free or low-cost resources on foundational class concepts, lectures on canvas).		
Promoting and explain supplemental instruction, study sessions, tutoring, and writing assistance.		
Normalizing asking for help (i.e., all students, especially high achieving students access tutoring, writing center, office hours, etc.)		
Teaching students how to use the library and/or organize workshop during class time with a librarian.		
Providing information about the Accessibility Resource Center with examples of when and how students might use it. Specifically, address invisible disabilities		
(mental health, learning, and cognitive disabilities).	 <u> </u>	
Do efforts encourage practices that foster peer support? For example:		
Having students post video introductions for asynchronous courses or engage in		
interactive introductions in in-person or synchronous courses.		
Incorporating small group discussions, assignments, or projects into the course.		
Explicitly recommend students to form study groups and provide a few minutes		
during class for students to form study groups and exchange contact information.	 	

Promoting student organizations and co-curricular opportunities that align with the course, major, or career path.		
Engaging students in creating ground rules that promote vulnerability and openness in discussions. Also, ask students to share what they are apprehensive/nervous about to foster respect and compassion among classmates.		
Do efforts encourage practices that foster genuine enthusiasm? For example:		
Drawing on students lived experiences and personal knowledge in lessons and assignments.		
Focusing lessons on real world examples and projects on tackling real world problems?		
Incorporating experiential opportunities for learning?		
Providing practical examples for complex concepts?		
Do efforts encourage practices that inspire motivation? For example:		
Having high expectations with the expressed belief that the student can meet expectations?		
Providing brief personalized and timely feedback		
Shoulder tapping students to lead (e.g., leading discussions or lessons, presenting, engaging in research, applying for awards, submitting articles for publication, etc.)		
Intentionally recognizing students' performance, improvement, and effort.		

Section 5: Physical Spaces, Communications, and Cues

Sense of belonging can be influenced by physical spaces and cues. To foster an inclusive campus where all students and employees see UWM as home, we must examine whether our spaces are inclusive, welcoming, and conducive to learning. We must be mindful to create spaces that do not prioritize one culture, identity, or background over another. Omissions can send just as powerful of message as signs of inclusion. We must be intentional in considering who we are excluding, whether intentional or not. Even spaces that primarily focus on an identity must ensure to consider multiple and intersectional identities. Furthermore, we can reinforce our commitment to students and our colleagues by having clean spaces where people feel that they matter. We can also ensure that all spaces are accessible and inviting.

	Yes	No	Priority
Does your space use stickers or decals to designate inclusive and supportive spaces? (e.g., safe space, human rights, dreamers, TIX trained)			
Does your space have art or photos that reflect a multicultural community?			
Does your units' meeting spaces include land acknowledgment placards?			
Does your space convey openness to all religious backgrounds?			
Does your space refrain from decorations associated with one religion?			
Does your space convey people are welcome? (e.g., open doors, spaces for people to sit, clean, uncluttered, with no broken furniture).			
Are resources, webpages, and communications inclusive?			
Do publications use inclusive pronouns? (e.g., they instead of he/she)			
Are your physical resources accessible? (e.g., braille, large text size, usage of color			

Are your web-based resources accessible? (e.g., video captions, alt text for pictures, works with older web browsers, can be translated to different languages)		
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Does your unit website display contact information (i.e., phone number, email,		
physical location) on the main page and in obvious places?		
Does your unit website include staff names with:	Ш	
Photos?		
Bios?		
Pronouns?		
Areas of interest and expertise?		
your unit webpage easy to navigate? (i.e., information not buried)		
Have you sought feedback from instructors on the functionality?		
your unit website easy to find?		
Do key units' websites link to your unit's website?		
Is your unit easily searchable on the institution's website?		
Is your unit easily searchable on web browsers? (i.e., Google)		
Will searches of key words and phrases bring up your unit?		
re pronouns included on:		
Business cards?		
Name tags?		
Email signature lines?		
o business cards include braille?		

Section 6: Onboarding

The culture and climate of the university, and more importantly the unit, can impact employee engagement and retention. Transitions are particularly important because employees are immersed into the culture for the first time and first impressions can linger for a long time. Further, transitions in general can be difficult. A strong onboarding experience can help new employees feel welcome and set up for success. A positive transition experience can be especially important for employees who see or suspect that their identities are underrepresented. We can all play an active role in setting up new employee for success.

	Yes	No	Priority
Prior to a new employee's first day of employment:			
Does a designated employee or supervisor reach out to assist in their transition?			
Is information about the community provided (e.g., childcare, K-12 schools, places to live, health resources, community organizations, local events, etc.)?			

Is information about UWM provided (e.g., parking & transportation, benefits,			
workspace location, etc.)?			
On the first day:			
Is their workspace clean and organized?			
Do they have all needed equipment and supplies?			
Are they welcomed by current employees?			
Do they have a meeting with their supervisor?			
Are lines of communication set up (calendar sharing, listservs, phone numbers, emails, team chats, etc.)?			
Are they shown the basics (restrooms, refrigerator/break room, mailbox, etc.)?			
Are they provided employee policies, expectations, work rules, etc.?			
Are new employees given a campus tour? Does it include:			
Places to eat and/or get coffee?			
Academic spaces (Library, Center for Teaching and Learning, Classroom Support, IT Help Desk, Graduate School, Lubar Entrepreneurship Center, etc.)?			
Places where student gather?			
Places where employees gather?			
Are employees provided information on how to get involved? Does it include:			
Shared governance & committees?			
Students' Experiential learning (e.g., advising student organizations, undergraduate research opportunities, volunteer opportunities, <i>Furrow</i> literary journal, Zelazo Center for performing arts, UWM Union Art Gallery, etc.)?			
UWM Events & Traditions (e.g., Student Welcome, athletics, Panther Prowl 5K, Milwaukee & LGBT Film Festivals, etc.)?			
Section 7: Unit Culture & Climate			
A healthy culture and climate fosters openness, inclusion, trustworthiness, collaboration, shall continuous improvement. Unit leaders can facilitate progress by leading by example, formalize spaces for employees to share, learn, and contribute. Units can foster a culture and climate the and inclusion. Proactive, visible, and meaningful efforts toward diversity, equity, and inclusion culture and climate for all employees.	ing proces	ses, and o	creating sity, equity,
	Yes	No	Priority
Does the unit have clear goals related to diversity, equity, and Inclusion?			
Are they shared widely and known among employees?			
Are goals and progress toward achieving goals shared widely with stakeholders?		(

	Yes	No	Priority
Does the unit have clear goals related to diversity, equity, and Inclusion?			
Are they shared widely and known among employees?			
Are goals and progress toward achieving goals shared widely with stakeholders?			
Does the unit foster a culture that values diversity, equity, and inclusion?			
Do employees actively engage in discussions about diversity, equity, and inclusion?			
Do employees become quiet or avoid engagement in activities that focus on equity?			
Do employees listen when their colleagues bring up issues related to equity and inclusion?			
Do employees of historically underrepresented identities have space to speak about diversity, but not the <i>expectation</i> to teach others or lead efforts?			

Does the unit intentionally seek to engage a variety of voices?		
Are strategies used to gather ideas and seek feedback from all unit employees?		
Are efforts made to consider groups not represented?		
Are meetings facilitated so that those who are quieter are given space to share and those who are more talkative are given space to listen?		
Does the unit recognize employees formally and informally?		
Does the unit have departmental awards?		
Does the unit coordinate submissions to the provost's weekly update?		
Does the unit collaborate with University Relations to share stories?		

Section 8: Relationships and Connections

All employees can benefit from strong university connections and relationships. Units can actively facilitate formal and informal opportunities for mentoring, networking, and collaboration. Additionally, units can be purposeful about engaging in activities and developing habits that foster inclusion.

	Yes	No	Priority
Does the unit have regular department meetings?			
Do employees have regular meetings with unit leaders?			
Does the unit have informal spaces to gather and collaborate?			
Does your unit have a physical space (e.g., breakroom or lunchroom)?			
Does your unit use a Teams group or group chat?			
Does your unit have a shared departmental calendar to foster connections and engagement?			
Does the unit have regular social events to help employees build connections?			
Are social events varied to appeal to a wide range of interests?			
Are efforts made to intentionally invite everyone in the unit?			
Do employees talk to and build connections with other employees in the unit, including:			
Administrators?			
Faculty?			
Instructional staff?			
Student services staff?			
Administrative assistants?			
School/college/divisional support staff (e.g., Information technology, human resources, business representatives, etc.)?			
Building support staff (e.g., custodians, grounds & maintenance staff, etc.)?			
Are appropriate titles for all employees known and used?			
Does your unit engage in passive ways to help employees build connections, including:			
Posting names and titles to make it easier to acknowledge employees (etc., physical directory, online directory, office placards, on mailboxes, etc.)?			
Providing all employees name badges?			
Using name badges or name tags used during large social gatherings?			

Encouraging pronoun use?		
Creating a space for pronouns on business cards, name placards, name badges, etc.)?		
Including braille on business cards?		

Section 9: Addressing Concerns

Several variables can prevent employees from providing feedback, reporting concerns, or seeking help. Employees may question their own behavior, feel like they won't be heard, feel that nothing with happen, fear retaliation, or fear harm to their reputation. Furthermore, when concerns fester, they can become all-consuming, lead to isolation, and impact performance. To counter this, units can have processes to ensure fair and prompt response to concerns. Furthermore, unit leaders can share information and resources, seek feedback, and demonstrate that they can appropriately respond to feedback and concerns.

	Yes	No	Priority
Do team members actively seek feedback from others?			
Are team members receptive to receiving critical feedback?			
Is problematic behavior ignored or avoided?			
Does the unit have a culture where confidentiality and privacy are upheld?			
Does the unit have a reputation for appropriately handling issues and conflicts?			
Are concerns handled expeditiously?			
Is there a formal process for reporting concerns?			
Do employees know about the process?			
Is the process easy for employees to navigate?			
Is the process followed?			
Is there an informal option for reporting concerns when appropriate?			
Is open dialogue encouraged?			
Does it foster understanding of multiple perspectives on areas of common			
interest?			
Does it attempt to repair harm?			
Do employees know when and how to contact:			
The Ombud's Council?			
The employee assistance program?			
Human Resources?			
The Title IX Office?			
Equity and Diversity Services?			
The Dean of Students Office?			
The UWM Police Department?			
Do employees know how to submit anonymous concerns?			

Section 10: Professional Development

We must continue to make improvements to achieve equitable outcomes. Furthermore, the university exists within a societal context that is constantly shifting with changing demographics, generational behaviors, community and global challenges, industries, technology, and so on. As such, employees and students have evolving needs and expectations. By actively seeking information, we can evolve and serve constituents well.

Professional development may also help employees enhance their skills, build new relationships, feel support from colleagues, and feel like they are a part of a positive campus culture and climate. In particular, employees who were the first (or one of only a few) in their families to attend or work at a university may not have supportive systems that can help them navigate their career paths. Furthermore, units benefit from such efforts with an internal pipeline of up-and-coming leaders.

	Yes	No	Priority
Does your unit regularly engage in professional development opportunities (e.g., national organizations, conferences, trainings, publications) about student learning and equity?			
Does your unit actively support employees' professional development?			
Do supervisors regularly and proactively discuss with employees' their career goals?			
Does your unit have a formalized mentorship program to guide employees who seek promotion, tenure, and/or advanced opportunities?			
Does your unit offer regular opportunities for employees to share their new ideas, practices, or research?			
Does your unit engage in efforts to introduce employees to new topics, inspire creativity, and foster innovation (e.g., regularly invite guests to share their efforts, engage in seminars, colloquia, conferences, etc.)?			
Does your unit annually review the topics of workshops, colloquia, and invited guests to ensure diversity and inclusivity?			
Does your unit support service to the UWM community?			
Do all employees have opportunities to serve in a variety of opportunities or committees?			
Is your unit intentional about shoulder tapping employees who may not have considered leadership roles?			
Does your unit regularly engage in diversity, equity, and inclusion trainings? Specifically:			
Anti-racism training (doing "self-work" by examining implicit biases, structural biases, & white supremacy)?			
Microaggressions/belonging?			
Stereotype threat (internalization of stereotypes about ones' own identities)?			
Destigmatizing mental health?			
Disabilities & accommodations?			
Gender biases, masculinity, femininity?			
Inclusive interviewing & hiring?			
Allyship & bystander training?			
Intercultural communication, behaviors, and customs?			