



Introduction to the Kern Institute's Transformational Ideas Initiative

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The Kern Institute's Transformational Ideas Initiative (TI²) is an annual seed grant program to develop and test ideas, creating opportunities for students, staff, residents, fellows, and faculty to innovate the learner experience at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Each year, teams are guided through the development of their idea through a series of summer workshops led by trained facilitators from the Kern Institute's Human-Centered Design Lab. Funding and deployment of each project spans the following academic year.

When selecting projects for the 2020–21 cohort, we prioritized projects that promoted student inclusion efforts for under-represented students in medicine (URiM). In all, six teams were led by students, two by staff members, and four by faculty. Teams were grouped based on their projects into four focus groups: Mentorship, Implicit Bias, Cultural Humility, and Leadership/Professional Identity Formation.

For 2021–22, we prioritized projects that address one of the many changes we are currently experiencing – whether with curriculum revision, inclusion and diversity initiatives, or adapting to a more virtual environment – with a focus on ensuring that the voices of those most affected (students, staff, faculty, residents, fellows) are part of the creative process. Six teams are led by students this year, one is led by a resident, two are faculty-led, and one is led by a Froedtert nurse.

In this issue of the *Transformational Times*, we highlight the progress made by the twelve 2020–21 teams currently implementing their projects, as well as a

look forward to the ten 2021–22 teams about to begin their work this summer. We are proud of their courage to apply their curiosity to transform MCW.

For more information on the TI² program, please see our [website](#) or contact [Dr. Chris Decker](#) or [Julia Schmitt](#).