

**Advisors as Teachers and Learners:
*Cross-Cultural Perspectives***

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Submitted by:

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Proposal and Conference Summary

The Advisors and Counselors Network (ACN) at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee would like to be considered for a *2005 NACADA Region V Advisor Training and Professional Development Grant*. In Spring of 2006, UWM will host *Advisors as Teachers and Learners: Cross-Cultural Perspectives*, a conference for academic advisors at UWM and other post-secondary institutions in southeastern Wisconsin.

Our primary goals for this Conference are: (1) provide tools, strategies and knowledge about cross-cultural advising, (2) assist academic advisors in developing and understanding their dual roles as both teachers and learners, and (3) provide advisors from all schools and colleges at UWM the opportunity to engage, consult, and learn from each other.

This one day conference will include a nationally known advising expert, Dr. Charlie Nutt, followed by concurrent workshops led by UWM staff. Dr. Nutt will share the keynote with Dr. Azara Santiago-Rivera, who is a professor of Educational Psychology at UWM and has expertise in the area of cross-cultural counseling. Dr. Nutt and Dr. Santiago-Rivera will share the keynote in the form of a dialogue. Our committee decided to adopt this format in order to model the teaching and learning theme of the conference and to provide both national and local perspectives.

Workshops will provide hands-on and interactive explorations of the conference theme, facilitated by Dr. Charlie Nutt, UWM advising professionals, faculty, and/or student services staff. (Workshops will be chosen through a call for proposals sent with the conference announcement.) Presenters will be encouraged to collaborate with different schools, colleges, and units in order to promote networking and coalition building among advisors. In addition, they will be encouraged to submit their workshop for consideration to local, regional, and national advising conferences.

Academic advisors at UWM have faced decreased opportunities for professional development due to travel restrictions and budget cuts. With the assistance of a *2005 NACADA Region V Advisor Training and Professional Development Grant*, advisors have the chance to strengthen and develop the knowledge and skills required to meet the needs of students at urban multicultural universities.

With appropriate acknowledgement, the Planning Committee permits other institutions to utilize *Advisors as Teachers and Learners: Cross-Cultural Perspectives* as a model to develop their own professional development programs.