



EDOT

עדות-המידווסט The Midwest Regional Jewish Diversity Collaborative

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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MIDWEST JEWS OF COLOR LAUNCH NEW INITIATIVE

“Edot HaMidwest” project at the University of Wisconsin will focus on network mapping, partnerships, and a convening in its pilot year

MADISON, WISCONSIN - August 20, 2019: A new project at the University of Wisconsin will work to reduce prejudice and increase coalition building through investing in the leadership of Jewish People of Color (JOC's) across the Midwest region.

Edot HaMidwest: The Midwest Regional Jewish Diversity Collaborative (“Edot”) will facilitate intersectional equity, diversity, and inclusion work across Midwestern communities, through partnerships with Jewish community organizations, organizations serving communities of color, and others.

With an aggressive timeline that includes mobilizing a team of Midwest community-based outreach specialists over the next several weeks, Edot's inaugural year will see a series of local events across several communities, a network-mapping project on Jewish diversity and allied individuals and organizations in the region, and a UW-hosted event in the spring. The project is made possible by a grant from the [Jews of Color Field Building Initiative](#) and will be housed at the University of Wisconsin [Center for Community and Nonprofit Studies \(CommNS\)](#).

“Our Midwest communities are hungry for more intersectional approaches to affirming diversity, increasing equity and inclusion, and building coalitions—but the right supports haven't been in place for these approaches to take hold,” Tweeted Edot Project Director Shahanna McKinney Baldon. “We will invest in JOC leadership and partnerships in local communities, and this will be our driver for change.”

CommNS Director Mary Beth Collins is enthusiastic about the launch: “Edot is a compelling project that will explore themes and action important to our Center – intersectionality in communities, how-tos of network-building and collaboration, and the role of faith communities in addressing grand challenges and diversity, equity, and inclusion.”

For more information, visit <http://edot.wisc.edu>.



Jewish Women of Color and allies delegation marching to the 2019 Women's March in Washington, D.C. About half of the people whose faces are visible in this photo were born in the Midwestern US. (Credit: Jewish Women of Color Marching)

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