

**Subject:** FW: CWU Center for Culinary Medicine proposal  
**Date:** Thursday, July 21, 2016 at 10:56:46 AM Pacific Daylight Time  
**From:** Black, Erin  
**To:** Kimberly Dawson

**From:** David Gee [mailto:David.Gee@cwu.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 20, 2016 3:48 PM  
**To:** Black, Erin  
**Subject:** CWU Center for Culinary Medicine proposal

Hi Erin,

I was the Faculty Marshall at the morning CWU commencement ceremony this year and had a chance to speak with you briefly. I read how you now have a new position as CEO of The Memorial Foundation at the Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital. Congratulations! I have been working on a project the last few months that I wanted to share with you.

One of the challenges faced by our healthcare system is that true collaborative teamwork among healthcare providers is affected by the fact that training of these future professionals is conducted almost totally independently of each other. Typically, the healthcare provider has little, if any interaction with other healthcare professions until they enter practice. Consequently, the Yakima Valley Inter-professional Practice and Education Collaboration (YVIPEC) was formed last year to encourage collaborations between institutions in the Yakima Valley involved in training health professionals.

Towards that end, I have been working towards establishing a Center for Culinary Medicine. Attached is a document that I provided to the Steering Committee of YVIPEC last month that describes the rationale and activities of such a Center. The Center for Culinary Medicine's goal is to provide experiential and didactic training to students in health professional education programs to more effectively integrate nutrition into health care and disease prevention. The proposed Center is modeled after a program pioneered by the Tulane University Medical School's Center for Culinary Medicine. This is a short (<3 minutes) video summarizing their program.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L0vWLn0IU5k>

At CWU, we have an outstanding dietetics program and much of what the Center at Tulane University does, we already do with our undergraduate students in Food Science and Nutrition. We hope to share the expertise of our nutrition faculty with other professionals and the community at-large through this proposed Center for Culinary Medicine.

I would be very interested in discussing this proposed Center with you and to receive any advice you might have in terms of how to make this proposal a reality. Please let me know if you have any interest and time to discuss this proposal with me.

Thank you!

*David L. Gee, PhD*  
Professor and Program Director

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