

Members of the Madison Community:

On Monday, 17 October 2011, Roger Clegg, president and general counsel for the Center for Equal Opportunity, told the Wisconsin Assembly Higher Education Committee that the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW-Madison) clearly discriminates against prospective white and Asian student applicants regarding student admission and the Governor or lawmakers should end the practice. Clegg also said that the Center for Equal Opportunity also studied admission practices at other universities, including Michigan State and Ohio State, and his group found that the UW-Madison had the most bias in admissions compared to the other schools.

Allegedly, the center reviewed UW-Madison's admissions data from 2007 to 2008 and said it found that UW-Madison admitted roughly 7 out of 10 black applicants and 8 of 10 Hispanic applicants compared to about 6 out of 10 white or Asian applicants.

"In a nation increasingly multiethnic and multiracial, it's simply untenable for our government institutions, including our state universities, to treat some people better and other people worse because of skin color." Clegg said.

Community Members, our strategic partner, the University of Wisconsin Madison is under attack for implementing policies of fairness that we have professed and encouraged over the years.

The aforementioned display of victimization must not be taken casually. This is an orchestrated first step of a "process" that could result in the dismantlement of the bold actions adopted by the University of Wisconsin over the last decade. UW-Madison has transitioned to a platform of inclusion that has exceeded most, if not all, of our expectations in admissions, hiring, promotion, etc.

Although there is still much to be accomplished, we cannot – we must not – allow those gains to be lost because others were vociferous and we were silent. Strategically, we must find a way to support our partner, the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Please share with me your thoughts directly at president@africanamericancommunication.com.

Floyd Rose