UMDSA Campus Change Team has been making strides this year in improving campus culture, diversity and increasing transparency throughout campus. We did many things this year to help promote equality around campus and strengthen our ties to people within the Multi-Cultural Center.

This year Student Association did some different things to help promote a better campus. First, we started to rebuild our relationships within the multi-cultural center. During Bulldog Welcome Week we held workshops based on leadership styles and what student groups you could connect to. Also, we helped sponsor the SPAT out as well. We did receive a lot of negative attention from the nation based on videos coming from UMD. Throughout the semesters, we continued to help co-sponsor events within the multi-cultural center and strengthened our ties with their leaders.

One idea that we had to promote diversity on campus was to form a Tunnel of Oppression. A Tunnel of Oppression is an interactive experience which uses actors, skits, music, discussions and personal stories to show the UMD students different types of oppression that many people in the world today face. The tunnel unfortunately did not happen this year but our information and progress has been saved and passed down to other members of the UMDSA CCT. The tunnel was a large project and with more resources and time it could have been achieved.

For next year, UMDSA has elected Transparency and Internal/External Relationships to be one of our goals and will continue to try and promote more diversity throughout campus. Our newly elected President Kimberly Newton will be holding office hours within the multi-cultural
center to try and make UMDSA more accessible to different student groups. We have a newly appointed Campus Outreach Director, Lidya Makonnen who is a member of some student groups within the multi-cultural center. That already formed relationship will help promote and strengthen our relationships for next year as well. Also, UMDSA will continue to try and co-sponsor events and work more with students from the multi-cultural center on ideas and projects.

Overall, the UMDSA Campus Change Team is committed to trying to work with students, staff and faculty to try and create a welcome and inclusive environment for all who come to campus. Next year, UMDSA is going to continue to work with other students from the multi-cultural center to try and form a stronger connection.