

# Creating Cool: Wayne State University Wins Jackson's Cool City Design Competition

By Khalil Ligon  
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Arizona State, California Polytechnic, Cleveland State, Harvard, University of Michigan, Yale.

And let's not forget, Wayne State University.

The seven competing colleges submitted proposals for the redevelopment of Jackson's downtown community. WSU hailed the Jackson Cool Cities Competition as the \$25,000 grand prize winner at the presentations May 7.

The city of Jackson, Michigan is poised to reinvent itself as a "Cool City." The Greater Jackson Chamber of Commerce sponsored the Cool Cities Design Competition in which WSU submitted a plan to make Jackson's downtown "Cool and Connected." The proposal focused on preserving the past and promoting the future of Jackson and featured plans for a Galleria and Eco-park, an attractive, urban scale nature park to treat stormwater run-off before it enters Jackson's Grand River.

Making their case to Jackson residents, business leaders, and government officials, WSU dazzled the judges and audience with a vibrant, passionate presentation of their proposal.

WSU began working on the proposal in January, meeting 2-3 times a week and on weekends. The eight member team, Trevor Behner, Jason Bibby, Michelle Katopodes, Khalil Ligon, Brian Pawlik, Victor Randall, Mark Stec, and David Vinande, is comprised of graduate and prospective students in the Geography and Urban Planning Department. Paul Vigeant, Lecturer in the GUP Department, served as the project director.



**WSU Jackson Design Collaborative (L to R):**  
Brian Pawlik, Victor Randall, Michelle Katopodes, David Vinande, Khalil Ligon, Mark Stec, Paul Vigeant, and Jason Bibby