Diedre Green

**Award:** Special Initiatives Program -- K12; $5000.00

**Title:** Program Director, Simpson Stree Free Press

**Project:** On Wisconsin! A Wisconin Idea in Action

**Abstract:** The SSFP 2017-18 “On Wisconsin!” project provides professional development for informal and formal education providers. In fact, the project uses an already successful back-and-forth pipeline model—a Wisconsin Idea model. SSFP continues to funnel college-ready students from underrepresented groups to UW System and other Wisconsin colleges. This innovative pipeline approach goes the other way too. We employ SSFP grads (now in college) as teachers and editors, helping students from modest-income backgrounds afford higher education. We inspire and engage young people, then educate and employ them. SSFP continues to build its partnership with professionals in the STEM fields during 2017. This project and this formula hit all the key benchmarks of the NASA Education Overview. These projects build on established assets and erect new, lasting strategic assets.

**Biography:** From humble roots in 1992 as a literacy program based in a challenged neighborhood, SSFP has carefully honed its craft. We deliver a menu of award-winning out-of-school time academic programs. We operate at several sites including Capital Newspapers, local schools, and our traditional location at South Towne Mall. Our focus is writing for publication. We are neighborhood-based, streamlined, and efficient. Known for rigorous academics, SSFP is  
popular in schools and neighborhoods across Dane County and southern Wisconsin. Fundamentally, we believe that actively engaged local young people are valuable partners in any achievement gap fight. Simpson Street Free Press (SSFP) delivers high-quality after-school academic instruction. Our students produce five separate youth newspapers and publish content on various media  
platforms. One of our major focus areas and most popular newspaper sections is our coverage of space science news. We staff our newsrooms using an innovative youth leadership pipeline. This model delivers impressive cost efficiency. SSFP grows its own after-school instructors. Our college-age newspaper editors know SSFP curriculum because they grew up doing it. Thus, SSFP is a pipeline for young people of color. Fourteen current editors are SSFP graduates. We see young leaders as assets. We place them in leadership roles.

**Congressional District**: 2

**Congressional Representative**: Mark Pocan