The problem:

Currently, in the student dorms there are two constant problems: sunlight enters the room when it is unwanted, and the temperature of the rooms cannot be controlled well. The current blinds offer little protection from the sun, and they allow students to be awakened by sunlight when they are trying to get sleep. As for the temperature of the rooms, very few of the rooms offer air conditioning or any solid insulation to keep temperature constant. This is an ever-present annoyance for students, and often, the rooms are cold when the students want them warm, and vice versa.

How our solution will fix it:

Our solution is to make new and improved blinds through the use of aluminum. Our plan is to make blinds with an aluminum foil core which is a great reflector of both heat and light. The aluminum core would be made aesthetically pleasing by having a sewn fabric cover the aluminum. This blind will minimize the light allowed to enter into the room and will also minimize the effect of the outdoor temperature on the temperature of the dorm.

How our solution will make student life better:

By creating a dorm room climate which can be personalized to each student’s liking, our solution will improve student happiness as well as health. Sleep deprivation is a big problem in college, and when students lose sleep due to light entering through their blinds, their health slowly but surely depletes. This leads to lower grades and higher stress levels. As for the climate control factor, student happiness is very important to any university, and this will make people’s opinions of Penn State better, and encourage more students to come to this great school.