

An Invitation to Become a Deliberation Facilitator

A Training Program Hosted by the Deliberative Citizenship Initiative (DCI)

This fall the [Deliberative Citizenship Initiative](#) is excited to offer its Deliberation Facilitator Training Program for the fifth time. This hands-on program trains participants in techniques that will improve their ability to facilitate difficult discussions about political and social issues among people who may have very different backgrounds, values, and opinions. Although such facilitation can be difficult, it is increasingly needed in a world that is facing a host of immense challenges that require people to come together to solve issues collaboratively. Well-trained facilitators can help us honestly, respectfully, and productively engage with these challenges and seek out innovative solutions.

This facilitator training program will cover the following topics:

- 1) **How to Facilitate:** Utilizing a range of facilitation approaches and skills
- 2) **How to Deliberate:** Developing deliberative dispositions and skills among participants
- 3) **How to Build Bridges and Boundaries:** Creating welcoming and well-defined deliberative spaces
- 4) **How to Host and Organize Deliberations:** Convening deliberative events
- 5) **How to Utilize Expertise:** Enabling knowledge-based and evidence-oriented deliberations
- 6) **How to Guide toward Action:** Providing participants with pathways beyond the deliberation

The DCI Deliberation Facilitator Training Program will include the following components:

- a) **Two 4-Hour Workshops:** These workshops will be led by Dr. Graham Bullock, the DCI Faculty Director, who will teach participants specific skills related to the topics above.
- b) **Breakout Facilitation Simulations:** These simulations will provide attendees with opportunities for hands-on learning and will demonstrate and examine different models of face-to-face deliberation.
- c) **Perspectives Online Training:** This series of five modules provide valuable background about the value and need for deliberation across differences. Each module takes 15-20 minutes to complete.
- d) **Deliberation Readings:** These focused materials will provide participants with important insights about the challenges and opportunities associated with dialogue and deliberation.

Participants who fully complete this free training program will be equipped to lead deliberative discussions among their friends and family, in the workplace, in government settings, in advocacy organizations, and in classrooms. They will also be certified as a DCI Facilitator and are encouraged to facilitate for the DCI at least once (and will be paid for doing so). Become a leader in deliberation and dialogue efforts and help your organization, your friends, and your family have better conversations!

The two sessions of the training program will be held on **Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023** and **Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023** from **1:30 to 5:30 pm**. *Both sessions are required for completion of the program.* Space is limited to maintain the quality of the experience for participants, so register today via [Eventbrite](#) (deadline is Sept. 5). Please only register if you can attend both sessions. The program is free and open to the public. Learn more about this program on the [DCI website](#), and email any questions to dcid@davidson.edu.