

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



DELIBERATIVE CITIZENSHIP INITIATIVE

INTRODUCTION

In 2020 Davidson College initiated the Deliberative Citizenship Initiative (DCI), a campus- and community-wide project focused on promoting deliberation as an alternative to the non-constructive cross talk that has come to dominate our public discourse. The DCI seeks to empower individuals with the skills, resources, and spaces necessary to engage in productive, meaningful conversations across differences.

This annual report summarizes the DCI's third year of accomplishments. It reviews the DCI's mission, vision, goals, and central concepts of deliberative citizenship, humane instincts and deliberative dispositions. It highlights key statistics, participant testimonials, and the DCI's different programs, which include the Fellows Program, Deliberative "D" Teams, Deliberative Forums, Deliberative Citizenship Public Lecture Series, Deliberative Pedagogy Collaborative, Deliberation Research Program, and Outreach, Engagement, and Collaboration Projects.

In 2022-2023, the DCI increased engagement among students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members by continuing and expanding on its existing programming. Fifteen students served as Fellows and increased the impact of the DCI by completing individual or partner deliberation projects, while nine faculty members developed courses that involved significant deliberation on challenging topics.

The DCI celebrated the academic year's end with multiple new funding sources, including a generous gift from the Wacaster family and a major grant from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations. This marks a significant milestone for the DCI and provides an amazing foundation for its future efforts to create a more deliberative culture both on campus and in our broader community.



DCI OVERVIEW

MISSION

The Deliberative Citizenship is designed to create opportunities for Davidson College students, faculty, staff, alumni, and members of the wider community to productively engage with one another on difficult and contentious issues facing our community and society.

VISION

Building democracy, one conversation at a time.

GOALS



TEACH DELIBERATIVE SKILLS



REINFORCE HUMANE INSTINCTS



BUILD MEANINGFUL COMMUNITY



CATALYZE CREATIVE SOLUTIONS



ANALYZE THE DELIBERATIVE PROCESSES OF THE INITIATIVE ITSELF



" DELIBERATIVE "

relating to discourse that contributes to both shared and new understandings of a particular issue that transcend previously-held positions and enable collective decisions and actions



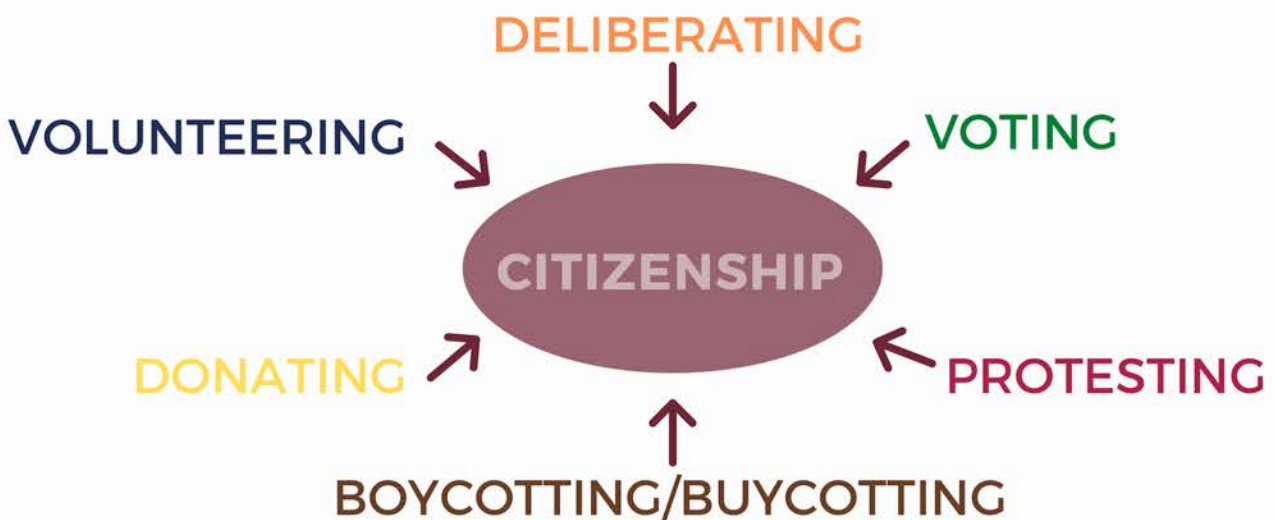
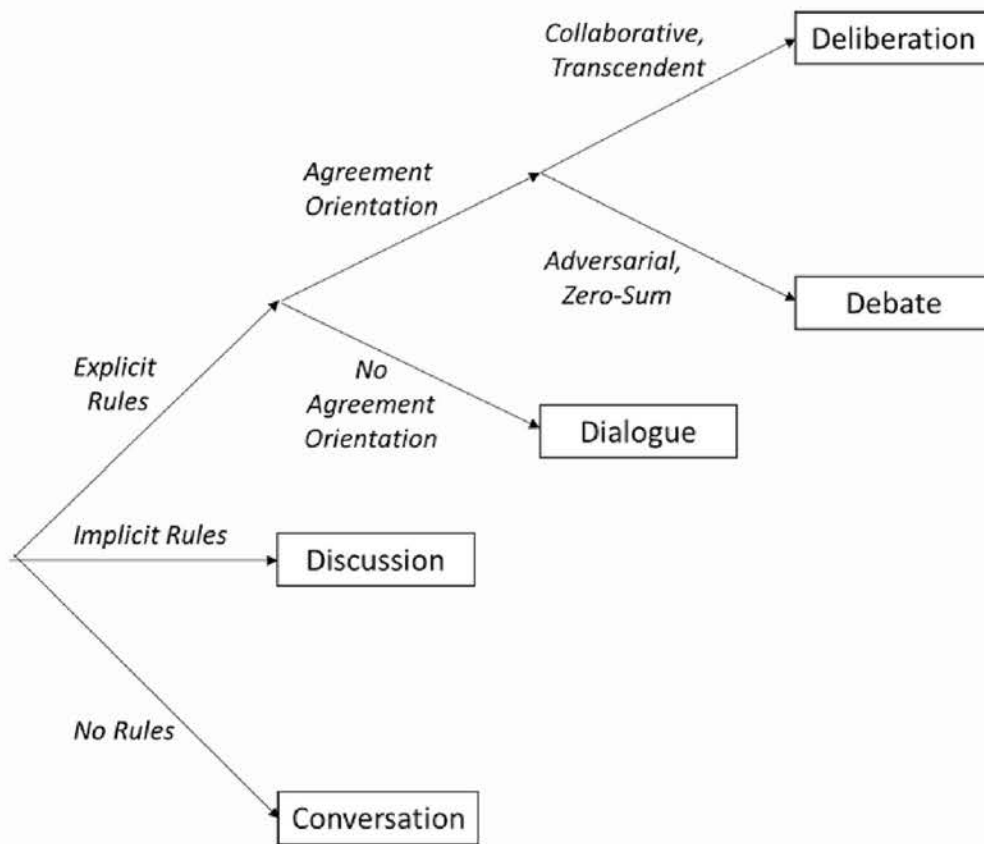
" CITIZENSHIP "

a sense of identity and set of actions, dispositions, and sensibilities associated with public life and the work of acting together to solve a society's common problems (independent of one's legal or immigration status)



DELIBERATIVE CITIZENSHIP

Deliberative citizenship encompasses multiple forms of discourse and complements other forms of citizenship



PROGRAMS

The DCI's work is divided into four program areas:

Deliberation Across the Curriculum

Deliberation on Campus

Deliberation in the Community

Research on Deliberation

HUMANE INSTINCTS

Throughout these programs, the DCI reinforces humane instincts that allow for transformative deliberative experiences:

COURAGE AND PRUDENCE

HUMILITY AND CONFIDENCE

COMPASSION AND KINDNESS

GENEROSITY AND GRACE

HONESTY AND CURIOSITY

JUSTICE AND FAIRNESS

LOYALTY AND FAITHFULNESS

SANCTITY AND PEACE

LIBERTY AND AUTONOMY

LOVE AND JOY

DISPOSITIONS

These humane instincts are supported by the DCI's emphasis on ten dispositions that its research and experience have found to be critical to the success of deliberative enterprises:

HUMILITY

CHARITY

ANTICIPATION

EGALITARIANISM

EMPATHY

ATTENTIVENESS

OPEN-MINDEDNESS

ACTION ORIENTATION

COMMUNAL ORIENTATION

EVIDENTIAL EMPHASIS

LEARNING ABOUT AND DOING DELIBERATION



DCI BY THE NUMBERS 2022-2023

of D Team Participants



of Trained Facilitators



PEOPLE

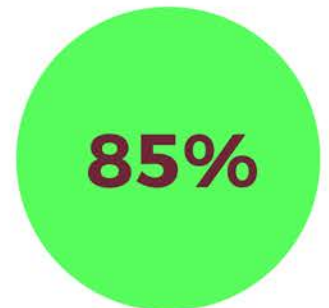
- 15** Fellows
- 9** DeeP Collaborative Faculty Members
- 44** Trained Facilitators
- 236** Forum Attendees
- 304** D Team Participants
- 6** Expert Panelists

PROGRAMS

- 39** D Teams
- 3** Deliberative Forums
- 1** Public Lecture
- 1** Training Workshop



SATISFIED OR VERY SATISFIED
With Deliberative Forum experience



SATISFIED OR VERY SATISFIED
With D Team experience

DCI BY THE NUMBERS 2022-2023

SUBSCRIBERS NEARLY DOUBLED

Recipients of bi-monthly newsletter and DCI Blog updates, members of WildcatSync portal, and YouTube channel subscribers

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS CONTINUE TO INCREASE

Across Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn

WEBSITE VISITORS INCREASED BY OVER 50% (AGAIN)

Individuals who have accessed the website in the past year

1231

693

8416

IMPACT - PARTICIPANT TESTIMONALS

“It was a great experience. I enjoyed the opportunity to have an intergenerational conversation and hear first-hand views from another generation.”

- D Team Participant

“I was very grateful to have this kind of opportunity to have these conversations in a context where I knew I shared something with all other participants even though we are in many different stages and paths in life.”

- D Team Participant

“It was my first DCI experience, and I was not sure quite what to expect. I was one of 2 non-students on our team, and part of the draw to participate was to hear and learn from current students how they think and feel about such a difficult, complex, politically-charged topic. It was an enlightening and encouraging experience; I came away more hopeful, and impressed by the DCI initiative.”

- D Team Participant

“The study materials were excellent. Reading them ahead of time helped me understand positions that differed from my own, and I recognized that issues were often more complex than I had anticipated. The discussion format of sharing the strongest and weakest arguments for both sides encouraged reflection. Participants usually chose different arguments which deepened my understanding of the issues and respect for opinions different from my own.”

- D Team Participant

“As we were wrapping up our discussion, they told me and the other student how special this conversation was and how grateful they were to be there. Above all, they were just happy and relieved to be able to disagree with someone about a topic and not break out into a fight with them, but instead have just a simple conversation. No one was trying to win or make sure that they had the last and loudest word. They each said they miss when they used to be able to do this all the time with people many years ago, but not any longer – until coming to the forum and deliberating with us, together.”

- DCI Fellow and D Team Facilitator Peyton Carter '23

IMPACT - PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIALS

“Through it we seemed to accomplish what you set out to accomplish. I especially liked the two experts who set the tone and provided their views in the respectful manner you advocate, giving us, in what they said and how they said it, a helpful common experience for the small group.”

- Deliberative Forum Participant

“I didn't disagree with a lot of the people I discussed with but different perspectives of the same stance did help me to develop my own stances and that was very helpful and life giving for me.”

- Deliberative Forum Participant

“Now that I have successfully implemented deliberation into one of my courses, I want to try to find ways to incorporate them into other courses I teach...I really enjoyed my experience and will pass it on to other colleagues in my department.”

- DeeP Collaborative Faculty Member

“I may introduce more deliberative type-assignments - more structured and directed discussion of particular issues into other classes I teach that engage controversial social issues.”

- DeeP Collaborative Faculty Member

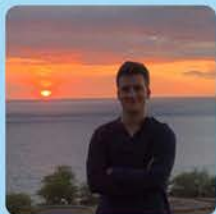


DCI FELLOWS

The DCI Fellows spend the academic year playing a leadership role in the initiative by immersing themselves in deliberative theory and methods, helping select the topics for D Teams and Deliberative Forums, facilitating robust deliberations on those topics, and documenting their experiences through blog posts and reflections. Fellows have the opportunity to contribute to the urgent and important work of bringing people together to explore how and why their perspectives are both similar and different - and begin building common solutions to our collective challenges. They also document their efforts and lessons learned on the DCI Blog, and introduce the work of the DCI at Davidson's annual Verna Miller Case Symposium.

2022-2023 FELLOWS

Fifteen Davidson students comprised the DCI's third Fellows cohort. Their bios are available at <https://deliberativecitizenship.org/2022-23-fellows/>.



Brody Bassett '25



Peter Beck '25



Peyton Carter '23



Miles Charles '25



Toffy Chen '25



Lauren Colver '25



Mae Corley '25



Kayleigh Davies '25



Divin Dushimimana '26



Clyde Dwyer '25



Daniel Lee '26



Heidi Meyer '23



LJ Phillips '25



Laegan Smith '24



Anthony Toumazatos '25

DCI FELLOWS

The 2022-23 cohort of DCI Fellows analyzed and discussed ideas related to deliberation from a wide range of academic, practitioner, and news sources. These included the book, *Think Again*, written by Duke University philosophy professor Walter Sinnott-Armstrong, the psychology-based blended learning platform, *Perspectives*, developed by the Constructive Dialogue Institute, and the video series, *Beyond Bigots and Snowflakes*, created by University of Illinois sociology professor Ilana Redstone. The Fellows applied what they learned to facilitating D Teams and Deliberative Forum breakout groups.



SPOTLIGHT: DELIBERATION PROJECTS

The DCI's 2022-2023 Fellows cohort organized 12 deliberation projects focused on a range of topics. Some projects tackled issues of particular interest to Davidson students, while others tackled broader social and political questions. All projects engaged with contentious topics, and the success of these projects shows how the Fellows were able to apply the facilitation and deliberation skills they had learned throughout the academic year.

SEXUAL ASSAULT ON CAMPUS

Mae Corley '25 & Heidi Meyer '23

STUDENTS' SEXUAL HEALTH: WHAT ROLE SHOULD COLLEGES PLAY?

Laegan Smith '24

STUDENT PERSPECTIVES ON DAVIDSON'S CULTURE & VALUES

Lauren Collver '25

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FORUM

Daniel Lee '26

FIRST-YEAR LONELINESS

Divin Dushimimana '26

INCORPORATION OF MALES INTO EATING HOUSES

Kayleigh Davies '25

RACE & COLLEGIATE SWIMMING

Miles Charles '25

DELIBERATION & ATHLETICS

Peyton Carter '23



WHERE IS RELIGION'S PLACE IN SOCIETY?

Brody Bassett '25, LJ Phillips '25, Anthony Toumazatos '25

FIVE MINUTE "BITE-SIZED" CONVERSATIONS

Clyde Dwyer '25

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS & REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Toffy Chen '25

SOCIAL MEDIA & SOCIAL MEDIA FORUM

Peter Beck '25

CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

In 2022-2023, the DCI expanded its efforts to engage the Davidson campus community. We hosted our first Kickoff Parties, which were designed to foster community at the start of each semester. The DCI Fellows also led our first Deliberating GOATs event, in which students vigorously deliberated about the athletes, actors, and musicians that they believe are the greatest of all time. Fellows also held office hours at the E.H. Little Library and hosted informal discussions among students about different topics over lunch at our Commons Conversations series.



COMMONS CONVERSATIONS



900 ROOM @ 9 EVENT



KICKOFF PARTY

D TEAMS

DELIBERATIVE "D" TEAMS


D Teams are small groups of 5-10 individuals with diverse viewpoints who share a commitment to meet regularly, get to know each other on a personal level, and share their perspectives on difficult issues facing our society. Each D Team is facilitated by a DCI Fellow who has been trained and certified as a deliberation facilitator. D Teams provide a tangible opportunity for members of the Davidson College community and the general public to engage across political and social differences, learn and practice deliberative skills, and discuss creative ideas to inspire change. The number of D Team members increased from **218 in 2021-2022** to over **304 in 2022-2023**, while the number of D Teams increased from **27 to 39**.



DELIBERATIVE "D" TEAMS

In 2022-2023, 39 D Teams met virtually via Zoom and in person. The DCI expanded its collaboration with Davidson faculty members who included D Team participation as a component of their courses. For each meeting, participants and facilitators are provided with a Deliberation Guide developed by the DCI. The team topics and guide titles are shown below.

FALL D TEAM TOPICS



A DCI Deliberation Guide

Election Accessibility
Should Congress Pass a New Voting Rights Act?



A DCI Deliberation Guide

Election Security
How should we improve confidence in the integrity of our elections?



A DCI Deliberation Guide

Election Fairness
What, if any, reforms should be made to make elections more fair in the United States?

D Teams focused on election accessibility, security, and fairness as voters went to the polls in Fall 2022.


In the spring, some D Teams covered three different topics (immigration, college admission policies, and climate change), while others took a deep dive on different dimensions of a single topic -- climate change.

SPRING D TEAM TOPICS




A DCI Deliberation Guide

Immigration
Who should we welcome? What should we do?



A DCI Deliberation Guide

College Admissions Policies:
How Should Applicants' Backgrounds Be Taken into Account, If at All?




A DCI Deliberation Guide

Climate Choices
What climate strategies, if any, should we pursue?



A DCI Deliberation Guide

Climate Choices: The Responsibility to Act
Who, if anyone, should be responsible for implementing the best climate strategies?



A DCI Deliberation Guide

Climate Choices: The Responsibility to Pay
Who, if anyone, should be responsible for paying to implement the best climate strategies?

DELIBERATIVE FORUMS

In 2022-2023, the DCI hosted three Deliberative Forums - one-time events designed to introduce participants to the basic dispositions and skills of deliberation. The Deliberative Forums included both in-person and virtual audiences.

Two of the Forums, one focused on the roles of parents and schools and another on exploring the effects of social media, were open to the public and began with panels of experts representing different perspectives on the issue at hand. The third Forum focused on free speech and inclusion was organized in collaboration with the Center for Civic Engagement for the Bonner Scholars, a group of over 70 Davidson students working to enact positive community change.

DCI-developed Deliberation Guides were distributed to participants before each Forum and were used by DCI-trained facilitators to guide conversations among participants in small groups and breakout rooms after the panel discussion.

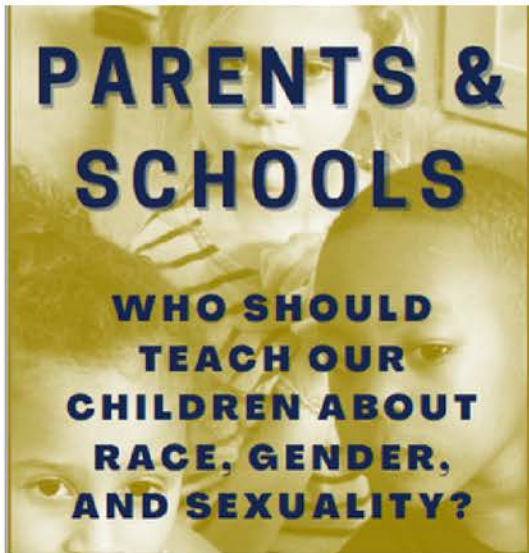
FALL 2022 BONNER FORUM



DELIBERATIVE FORUMS

The DCI's Fall Forum on Parents and Schools sparked significant controversy on campus, as some students and faculty protested the inclusion of one panelist due to their views on abortion, transgender issues, and critical race theory. Despite a few disruptions caused by some of the protesters, the event continued and catalyzed some meaningful conversations both among the attendees and with the protesting students. The DCI views both protest and deliberation as important elements of a healthy democratic community, and remains committed to creating spaces where everyone feels welcome and able to engage in robust discussion of contentious topics.

FALL 2022 FORUM



SPRING 2023 FORUM



DELIBERATIVE CITIZENSHIP PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

The DCI's guest speaker series introduces the Davidson community to different theoretical and practical approaches to deliberation. In February 2022, Eric Liu, Co-Founder and CEO of Citizen University and Director of the Aspen Institute's Citizenship & American Identity Program, delivered a keynote address exploring how we can come together and rekindle our civic life in the context of a highly divided political landscape. He also led a dinner workshop discussing the key insights from the Aspen Institute's Better Arguments Project, which emphasizes the importance of incorporating historical context, emotional intelligence, and a recognition of power dynamics into the process of organizing difficult conversations.



Eric Liu

**CO-FOUNDER
AND CEO,
CITIZEN
UNIVERSITY**



KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

From Isolation to Community: A
Commitment to Rehumanize and
Revive our Democracy

THE BETTER ARGUMENTS PROJECT:

An Interactive Conversation
and Dinner

FACILITATION TRAINING

The DCI hosted a deliberation facilitator training for our third cohort of Fellows, community members, DeeP Collaborative members, and Davidson faculty and staff in the fall of 2022. This 8-hour training over two days introduced the 44 in-person and online participants to specific skills to improve their ability to both listen and deliberate with others as well as facilitate such deliberations as part of D Teams, Deliberative Forums, and other deliberative events.



Hosting a Deliberation



Utilizing Expertise



Learning Different Styles of Facilitation



Asking Good Questions



Engaging with Deliberative Theory



Organizing a Deliberation



DELIBERATIVE PEDAGOGY (DEEP) COLLABORATIVE

Four new faculty participants in the DCI's Deliberative Pedagogy (DeeP) Collaborative attended a half-day in-person workshop in August 2022. They included professors from Physics, Writing, Chemistry, and History/Africana Studies (see their photos below). The DCI's Faculty Director, Dr. Graham Bullock, led this workshop in exploring how to embed deliberation into different types of courses. Throughout the academic year, these faculty members met monthly as a collaborative and in small groups to share their progress in designing and teaching their deliberation-involved courses. They were joined by faculty from Furman University, Morehouse College, Rollins College, and Southwestern University in the fall semester who continued their work with the Collaborative as they developed a second deliberative course that they taught in Spring 2023. Blog posts about their experiences have been posted to the DCI website.



Dan Aldridge
History/Africa Studies



Jason Blum
Writing Program



Bassil El-Zaatari
Chemistry



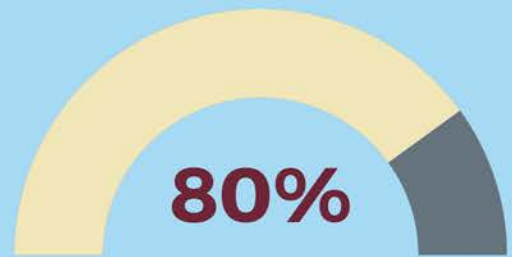
Anthony Kuchera
Physics

RESEARCH PROGRAM

The DCI is committed to supporting research on deliberation and is systematically assessing the effects of its own activities by tracking, analyzing, and reporting on its inputs, processes, outputs, and outcomes. The DCI distributes surveys to D Team and DeeP members, Deliberative Forum participants, and DCI Fellows to assess the impacts of its activities.



of Deliberative Forum respondents said they carefully considered the views of others that were different from their own



of D Team respondents reported being likely or very likely to join another D Team in the future



In February 2023, Graham Bullock presented some of the DCI's research and lessons learned at the NC Campus Compact PACE Conference at High Point University. In July 2023, he was joined by Professor Greg Snyder and Michael Mitchum '25 on a panel, *Dialogue and Deliberation to Address Deep Religious and Moral Conflicts*, at Tufts University's Frontiers of Democracy Conference. They discussed a course, *The Bible and Modern Moral Issues*, that Michael had taken and Dr. Snyder had developed and taught as a member of the DeeP Collaborative.

OUTREACH, ENGAGEMENT, AND COLLABORATION

In 2022-2023 the DCI continued its work engaging with different partners in its programming and outreach. Below is a list of such efforts:

- Partnership with **Bonner Scholars Program** in hosting Eric Liu and a forum on free speech and inclusion for Bonner students
- Co-hosting of Parents and Schools Forum with the **Educational Studies** and **Political Science Departments**
- Collaboration with the student journal, the **Davidson Political Review**, on writing the *Perspectives* pamphlet for the Social Media Deliberative Forum
- Co-hosting of Social Media Forum with the **Digital Studies, Psychology,** and **Political Science Departments**
- Classes on Deliberation at **Davidson College Presbyterian Church**
- Panel Presentations at **Campus Compact PACE Conference** and the **Frontiers of Democracy Conference**
- Poster Presentations by DCI Fellows at the **Davidson College Verna Miller Case Research and Public Works Symposium**
- Collaboration with **Political Science and Environmental Studies professors** in embedding D Team participation in course syllabi
- Presentations given and deliberations hosted in **Davidson communication studies course**
- Co-sponsoring of DCI Fellows with **Dean of Students Office**
- Co-sponsoring of Deep Collaborative with **Center for Teaching and Learning**
- Co-sponsoring of CHOSEN documentary screening and dinner with the **Center for Diversity and Inclusion, Political Science Department,** and **Center for Political Engagement.**
- Partnership with **Jay Hurt Hub for Innovation and Entrepreneurship** hosting the DCI Training Workshop and Social Media Forum
- Fellows' projects included collaboration with **Davidson's International Students Program, Athletics Department,** and **WALT-1610 Radio**
- DCI Fellows hosted "**Commons Conversations**" for students over lunch on a variety of different topics

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

In addition to the DCI website, DCI has published a number of resources. These include deliberation guides, "how to" resources, a deliberation facilitator's handbook, digital badging and certification, and more! In 2023, the DCI developed the following new resources that have been added to this collection:



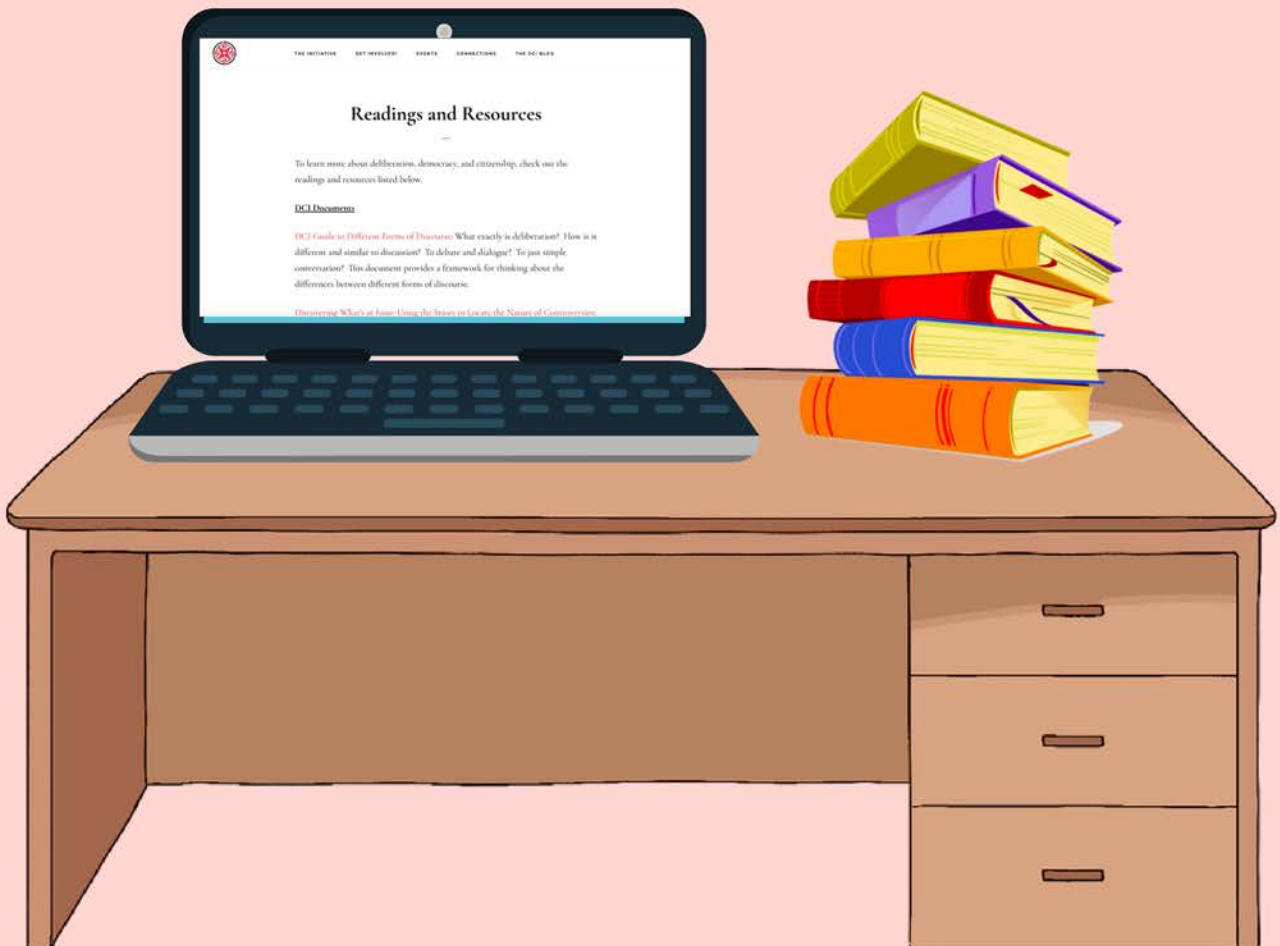
1 Parents and Schools Deliberation Guide

3 Voting and Election Deliberation Guides

3 Climate Change Deliberation Guides

1 Immigration Deliberation Guide

1 Social Media Deliberation Guide



SUMMARY

In the DCI's third full year, concerns about the pandemic subsided and allowed for both in-person and virtual events to be held. This enabled the DCI to reach more people and host more on-campus events while still providing opportunities for alumni and community members not in Davidson to join in on the conversations. The DCI also expanded its curricular work by continuing to host the DeepP Collaborative and working with faculty in embedding D Team participation into their syllabi.

Collaborations with academic departments, the Bonner Scholars Program, Davidson College Presbyterian Church, and other campus offices and community organizations also enabled the DCI to reach a wider audience. In total, a record number of nearly 850 people participated in DCI events and activities this year.

The DCI looks forward to building on this outstanding participation and support in the 2023-24 academic year, as it continues to foster productive and vigorous discussions across differences that enable greater understanding and engagement on the challenging topics facing our community and society.

DCI LEADERSHIP

2023-24 CO-CONVENERS AND STAFF

- **Graham Bullock**, Faculty Director, Associate Professor of Political Science
- **Sara Copic**, Assistant Director, Deliberative Citizenship Initiative
- **Daniel Layman**, Co-Convener, Associate Professor of Philosophy
- **Byron McCrae**, Co-Convener, Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students
- **Stacey Riemer**, Co-Convener, Associate Dean of Students and Director of the Center for Civic Engagement
- **Amoura Carter '07**, Co-Convener, Business Owner, AC Creative Collective
- **Jayme Sponsel**, Co-Convener, Assistant Director, E.H. Library at Davidson College
- **Daniel Lee '26**, Student Co-Convener, Sophomore at Davidson College
- **LJ Phillips '25**, Student Co-Convener, Junior at Davidson College
- **Laegan Smith '24**, Student Co-Convener, Senior at Davidson College

2023-2024 ADVISORY COUNCIL

- **Ike Bailey '95**, Batten Professor of Public Policy and Communication Studies at Davidson College
- **Chris Clunie '06**, Director of Athletics at Davidson College
- **Pam Dykstra**, Curriculum Chair for Davidson Learns
- **Harrison Grooms '25**, Junior at Davidson College
- **Peter Henry**, Pastor at Davidson College Presbyterian Church
- **Jerry Hopkins '64**, Retired President of Worldwide Insurance Services
- **Marya Howell '91**, Major Gifts Officer at Davidson College
- **Barbara Lom**, Professor of Biology at Davidson College
- **Lia Newman**, Director and Curator of Art Gallery at Davidson College
- **Evan Rozantes**, Innovation Portfolio Manager at Davidson College Hurt Hub
- **Nora Sjue '24**, Senior at Davidson College
- **Walter Snipes**, Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Residence Life at Davidson College
- **Deidra Smith**, Director, Alumni and Family Engagement at Davidson College
- **Jamie Stamey**, Executive Director, of Career Development at Davidson College
- **Abbey Tutterow '24**, Senior at Davidson College



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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