

THE DELIBERATIVE CITIZEN

A Monthly Newsletter from the DCI



August 2025 Edition

Welcome to the sixth edition of the DCI's new publication, *The Deliberative Citizen*. In this issue, we are excited to announce our **250th Anniversary American Values Deliberative Forum Series!** Co-hosted with Duke University and UNC Chapel Hill, the series will include both Expert Roundtables and Community Conversations that will cover a range of important topics.

This Newsletter also provides info about our **Semester Kickoff Party** and **Deliberation Facilitator Training Program**, highlights from the 2024–25 Fellows' deliberation projects, an update about the DCI's ginkgo tree project, and news about a Davidson faculty member receiving a grant to incorporate more deliberation into his courses.

It also includes blog posts by **DeeP Collaborative faculty members** in communications, environmental economics, and Hispanic studies about how they incorporated deliberation into their classrooms and by several **DCI student fellows** about deliberative leadership, the effect of television on the US Senate, the challenges of everyday deliberation, and the value of the DCI's Deliberative Forums. Read on to learn more!

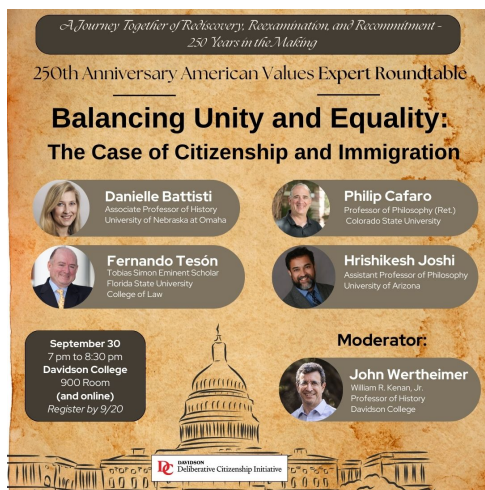
Upcoming Programs



250th Anniversary American Values Forum Series

We are excited to announce the American Values Deliberative Forum Series of Expert Roundtables and Community Conversations the DCI is co-hosting with Duke University and UNC Chapel Hill to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

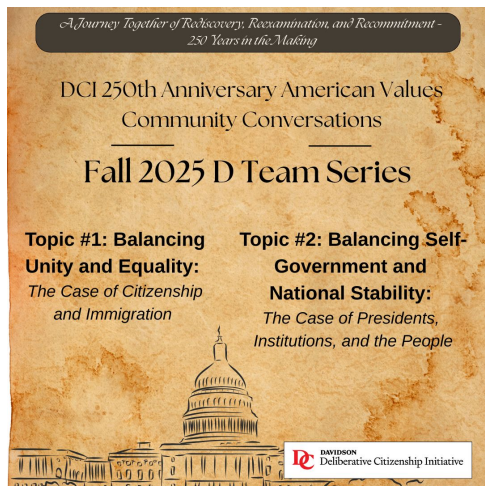
[LEARN MORE](#)



Expert Roundtable on Unity, Equality, and Immigration

The first Expert Roundtable in our American Values Deliberative Forum Series, “Balancing Unity and Equality: The Case of Citizenship and Immigration,” will be held on 9/30 at 7 pm at Davidson College (and streamed online). Learn more and register today!

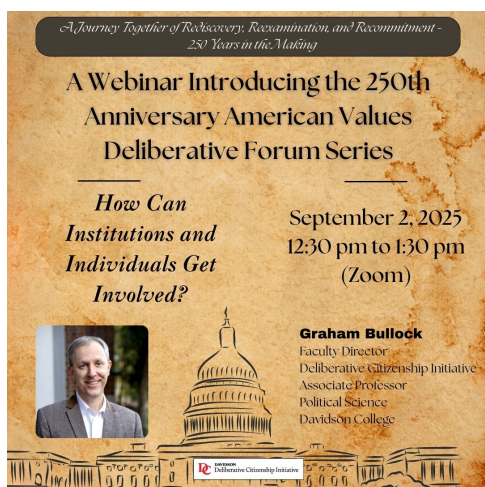
[CHECK IT OUT](#)



Fall 2025 D Teams: American Values Community Conversations

This year the DCI will be hosting 2-hour Community Conversations (like D Teams) the week after each Expert Roundtable in our American Values Deliberative Forum Series to give participants a chance to deliberate about the topics themselves. Sign up to join!

[CLICK FOR MORE](#)



Webinar Introducing the American Values Deliberative Forum Series

On Sept. 2 at 12:30 pm, the DCI will be hosting a webinar for individuals and institutions interested in hosting their own programs related to our American Values Deliberative Forum Series. RSVP below to learn more about the series and how to get involved!

[JOIN US](#)



**DCI
Semester
Kick-Off Party!**

BUILD THE BEST DEMOCRACY!

Economic Rights	Type of Elections	Executive Authority
Civil Rights and Liberties	Legislative Representation	Judicial Power

Semester Kickoff Party!

Join us to learn about the DCI, deliberate about and design the best democracy you can imagine, enjoy pizza, prizes, and games, and make new connections!

Friday, August 29th

Union 900 Room

11:30am - 12:30pm

[LEARN MORE](#)



Deliberation Facilitator Training

The DCI's 6th annual Deliberation Facilitator Training Program, held on 8/31 and 9/7, is an interactive, hands-on, and free training that will teach you how to host and moderate hard conversations on contentious topics. Register now to reserve your spot!

[SIGN UP TODAY](#)

Announcements



DCI Working Group Recommends Text for Ginkgo Trees Planted on Campus

August 6th was the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. It also has been a year since eight Ginkgo trees were planted on the Davidson campus. Why is this date and these trees relevant to deliberation and the DCI?

[LEARN MORE](#)

News

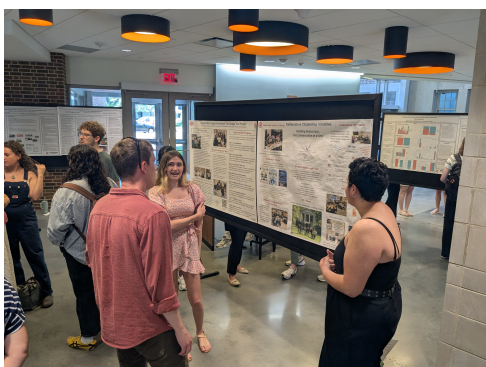


Former DCI Faculty Fellow Earns Grants to Create Deliberative Debate Labs in More Chemistry Classes

Former DCI Faculty Fellow and Deep Collaborative Member Bassil El-Zaatari will be implementing new Deliberative Debate Labs in more of his chemistry courses, including General Chemistry, as part of his work as a 2025 Cottrell Scholar. Congrats, Bassil!

[CHECK IT OUT](#)

Recent Programs



Event Recap: DCI @ VMC!

On May 8, Alyssa Henke '26, Isabella Neri '27, Zak Abdulahi '27, Fatima Mukasa '28, Keya Zhou '24, and Luna Noguchi '24 presented two posters about the DCI's work at the Davidson College Verna Miller Case Research and Creative Works Symposium.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Spotlight

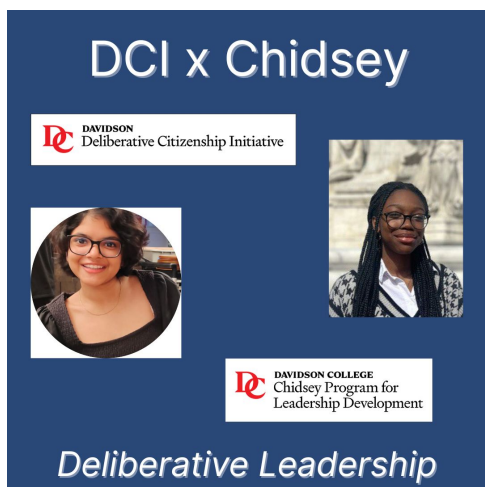


Taking it to the Next Level: The 2024-25 DCI Fellow's Deliberation Projects

Every year, the DCI's student fellows all develop and implement their own personal deliberation projects. What did the 2024-25 fellows focus on? The power of historical narratives, the state of the Davidson honor code, and more!

[READ THE POST](#)

Student Insights



Bridging Perspectives: Leadership Through Deliberation

On May 8, Alyssa Henke '26, Isabella Neri '27, Zak Abdulahi '27, Fatima Mukasa '28, Keya Zhou '24, and Luna Noguchi '24 presented two posters about the DCI's work at the Davidson College Verna Miller Case Research and Creative Works Symposium.

[LEARN MORE](#)

The Challenges of Everyday Deliberation

DCI Fellow Owen Brent-Levenstein found that shared norms can indeed foster civil dialogue during his spring D Team meetings. But what to do in less formal contexts? He posits that leading by example can help make everyday conversations more constructive.

[READ THE POST](#)

Creating a Community: The Importance of Deliberative Forums

The DCI has hosted 19 (!) Deliberative Forums since its inception in 2020. DCI Fellow Isabella Neri '27 explores the power and value of these events, discussing how they introduce participants to the deliberative process and create bridges among them.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Does Televising Senate Hearings Prevent Productive Deliberation?

Does televising Senate hearings prevent productive deliberation? DCI Fellow Liam Mann '26 acknowledges the reasons for putting Congressional proceedings on TV, but is concerned it made them.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Faculty Insights

DeeP Collaborative Series



Brandon Inabinet
Furman University

From Argument Culture to Deliberative Culture

Brandon Inabinet reflects on adding more dialogue and deliberation to his rhetoric class at Furman University. He discusses the use of AI to write guides and the challenge of students serving as both guide writers and group facilitators.

[CHECK IT OUT](#)

DeeP Collaborative Series



Michelan Wilson
Colorado College

Transforming Classroom Conversations: My Journey with Deliberative Environmental Economics

Michelan Wilson, an assistant professor of economics and business at Colorado College, shares her lessons learned from layering deliberative activities into her environmental economics course. Learn how her efforts helped her students engage more deeply at the link below.

[READ THE POST](#)

DeeP Collaborative Series



Abril Jimenez
Davidson College

Deliberating about Human Rights in a Non-dominant Language

Deliberation in your own language is hard enough, but how about in a new one? Dr. Jimenez shares how she integrated civic dialogue about human rights into Spanish 260. Her students not only improved their Spanish but also engaged with complex global issues.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Contribute to the Deliberative Citizenship Initiative

If you like what the DCI has been doing to support more productive public discourse at Davidson – in the classroom, across campus, and in the community – then you are welcome to make a financial contribution to the initiative. Simply click on the link below, select Other under “I want to support” and type in “Deliberative Citizenship Initiative,” and proceed from there. Any amount would help us continue to do the work of bringing people together to discuss the challenging and contentious topics facing our society.

[Give a Gift to the DCI](#)

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