

BUILDING DEMOCRACY, ONE CONVERSATION AT A TIME

*A Journey Together of Rediscovery, Reexamination, and Recommitment -
250 Years in the Making*

A Webinar Introducing the 250th Anniversary American Values Deliberative Forum Series

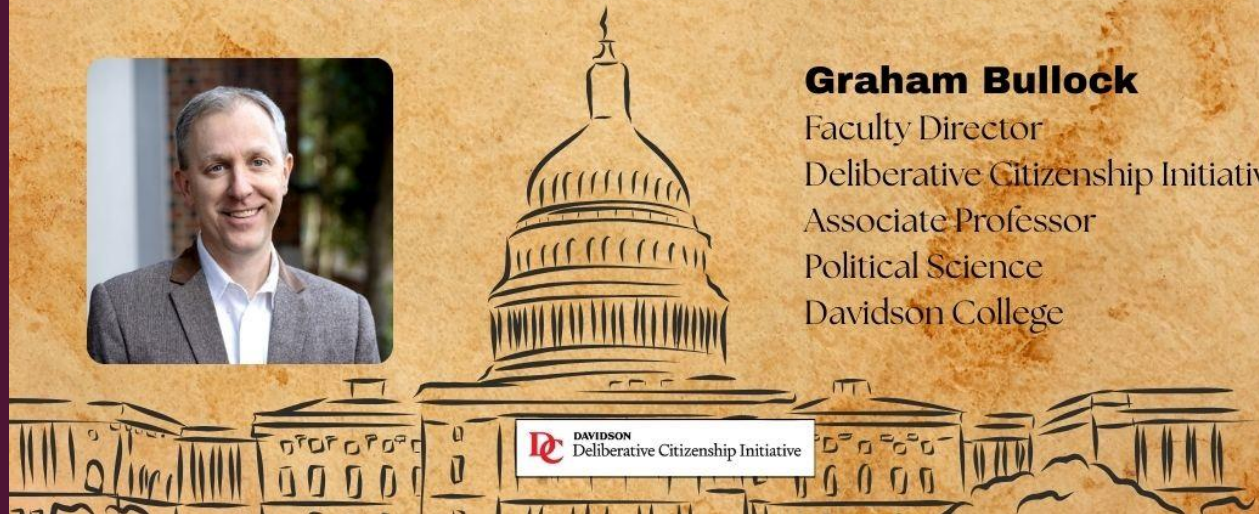
*How Can
Institutions and
Individuals Get
Involved?*

September 2, 2025
12:30 pm to 1:30 pm
(Zoom)

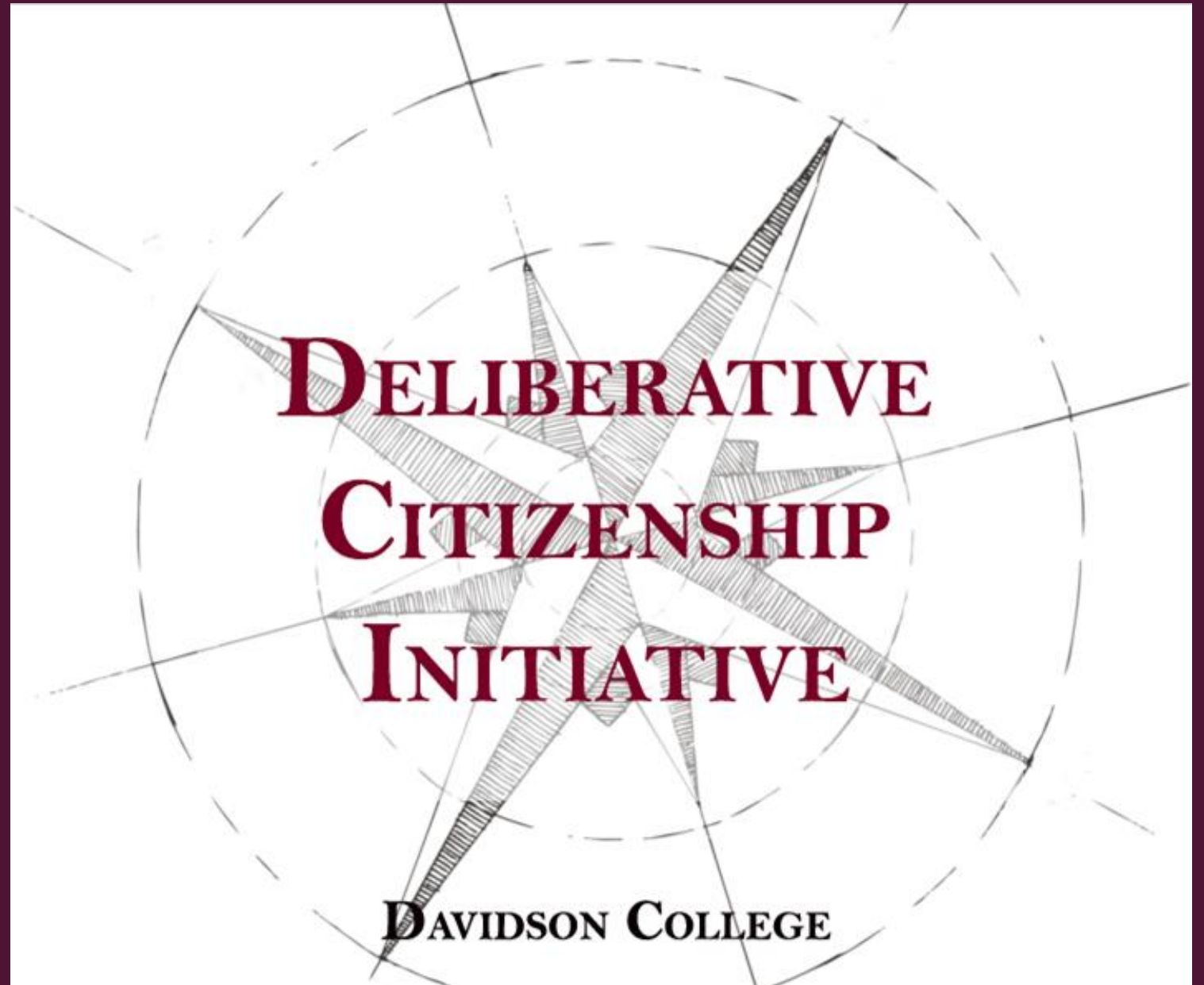


Graham Bullock

Faculty Director
Deliberative Citizenship Initiative
Associate Professor
Political Science
Davidson College



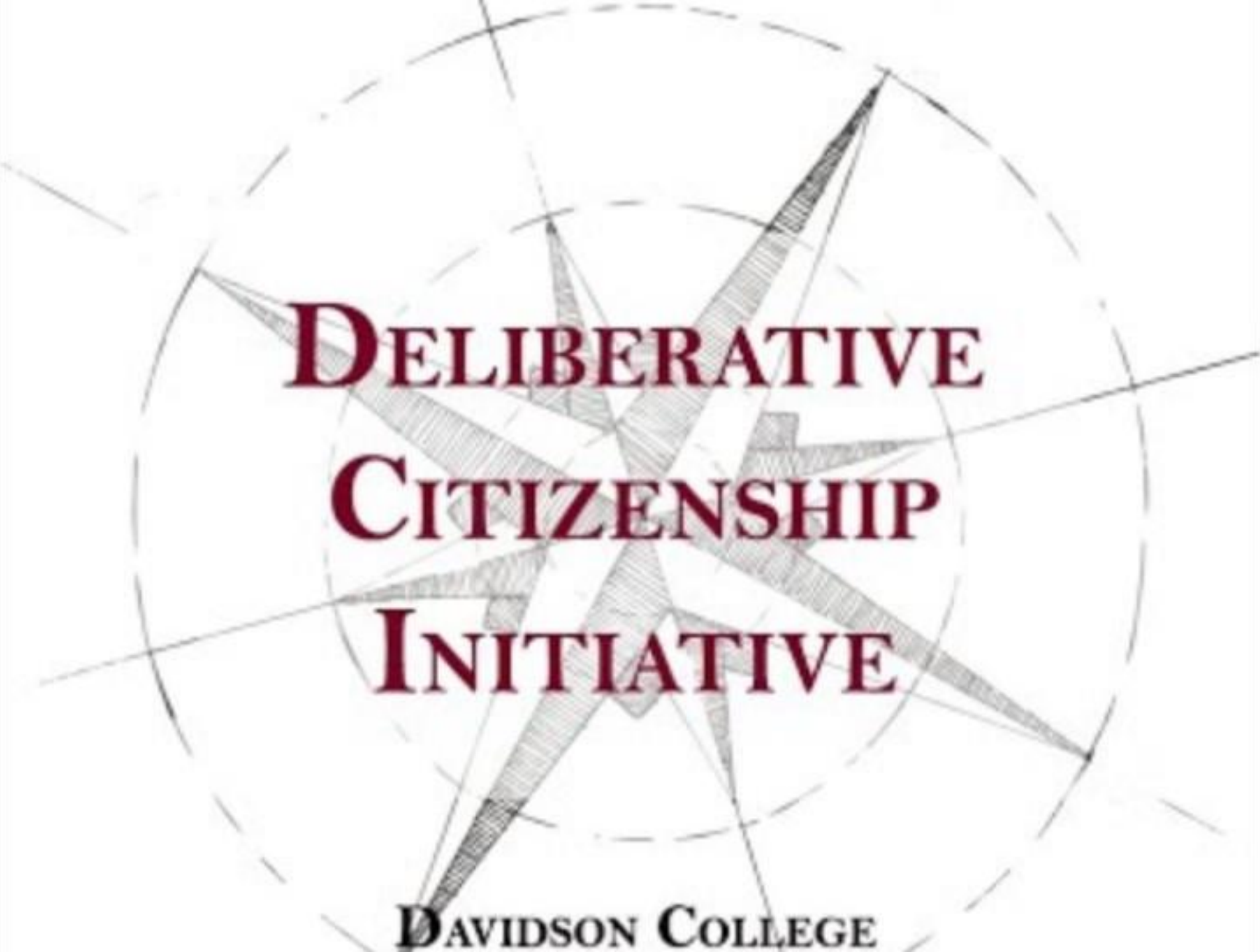
**BUILDING
DEMOCRACY,
ONE
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The Institute for Public Good

- The Institute for Public Good at Davidson College focuses on five program areas – Civic Engagement, Deliberation & Free Expression, Public Policy & Research, Arts in Public Life, and Ethics, Honor, & Leadership – and is designed to equip students to address society's challenges and emerge as ethical public leaders

A faint, stylized compass rose is centered in the background. It features eight points, with the cardinal points (North, South, East, West) being longer and more prominent than the intercardinal points. The rose is overlaid with a grid of thin, dashed lines that form concentric circles and radial lines, resembling a nautical chart or a celestial map. The text is centered over this graphic.

DELIBERATIVE CITIZENSHIP INITIATIVE

DAVIDSON COLLEGE

THE DCI'S PURPOSE AND GOALS



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

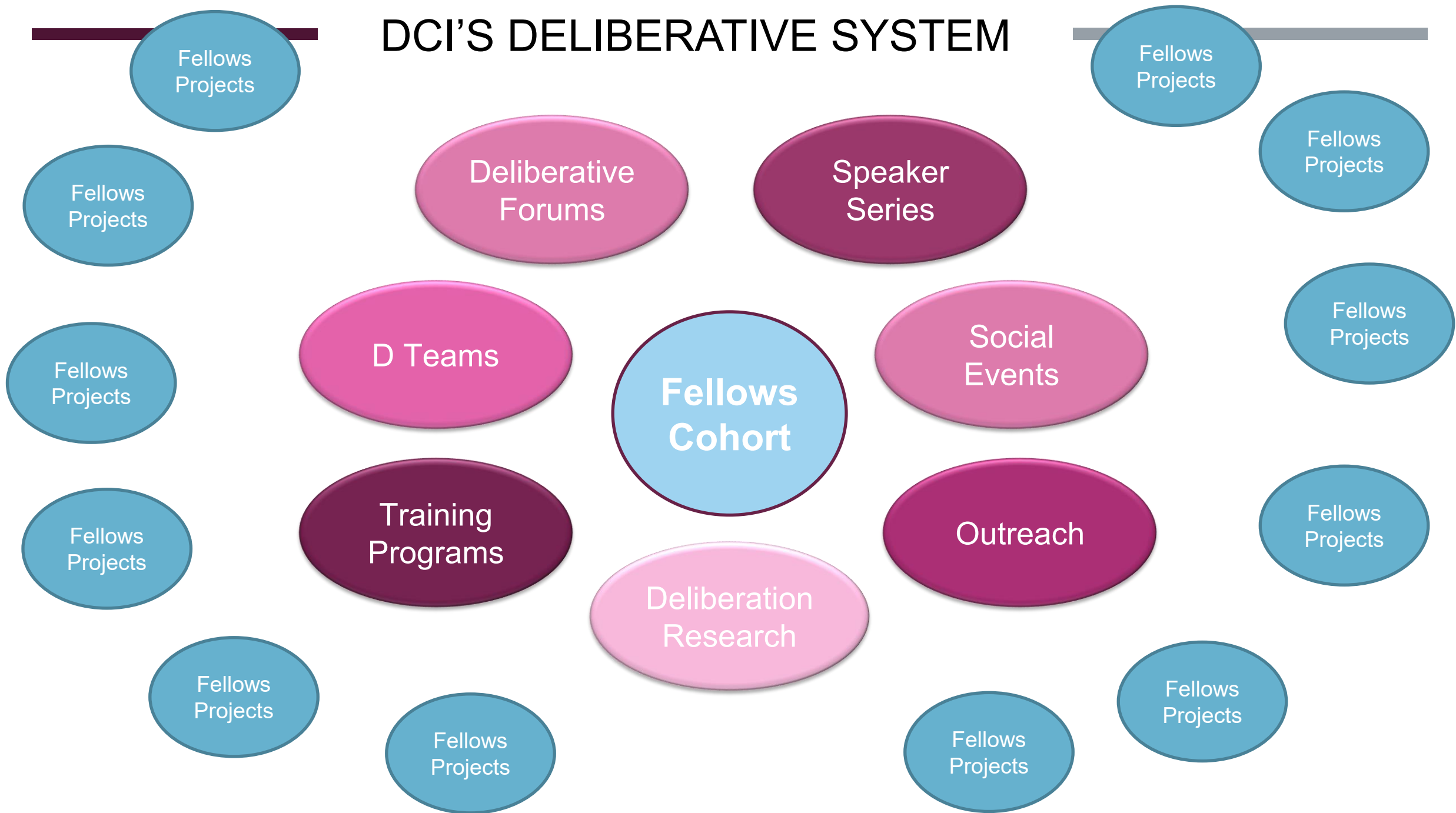
The goals of the initiative are to:

1. Teach deliberative skills
2. Reinforce humane instincts
3. Build meaningful community
4. Catalyze creative solutions
5. Improve deliberative practices through rigorous research



deliberativecitizenship.org

DCI'S DELIBERATIVE SYSTEM



DCI Deliberative Forums



Fall 2024 Deliberative Forum

INCOME AND WEALTH DISPARITIES

SHOULD WE ADDRESS THEM, AND IF SO, WHY AND HOW?

Come hear from a panel of advocates and experts on this issue and then discuss it with your fellow participants!

**Tuesday, October 29th
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM**

**Join Online or In-Person
at Davidson College**

Panelists:



Robyn Lake Hamilton
CEO and President of Urban League of Central Carolinas; Urban League Movement Champion



Jessica Flanigan
Professor of Leadership Studies and Philosophy, Politics, Economics and Law; Richard L. Morrill Chair in Ethics & Democratic Values



Brian Balfour
Senior Vice President of Research, John Locke Foundation; Author of *Economics in Action*



Sean McKeever
Professor of Philosophy, Davidson College; Co-author of *Principled Ethics: Generalism as a Regulative Ideal*

Moderator:



Doug Hicks
President of Davidson College; Professor of Religious Studies



Visit us at
DeliberativeCitizenship.org



Register to join the conversation!



This event is co-sponsored by Davidson College's Deliberative Citizenship Initiative (DCI), Center for Political Engagement, College Democrats, College Republicans, and the Economics Department, Philosophy Department, and Political Science Department



*A Journey Together of Rediscovery,
Reexamination, and Recommitment -
250 Years in the Making*

250th Anniversary American Values Deliberative Forum Series

 **DAVIDSON**
Deliberative Citizenship Initiative

 **Duke** Office of the
Provost
Provost's Initiative on Pluralism,
Free Inquiry and Belonging

 **UNC** COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Program for Public Discourse
Promoting Civic Virtue, Fostering Civil Debate

*A Year-Long
Commemoration of the
250th Anniversary
of the Declaration of
Independence*



250th Anniversary American Values Deliberative Forum Series

DEONDRA ROSE

- Professor in the Sanford School of Public Policy
- Professor of Political Science
- Professor of History

Duke University



KEVIN MARINELLI

- Teaching Associate Professor of Communication
- Senior Fellow of Rhetorical Studies in the Program for Public Discourse

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



Forum #1: Balancing Unity and Equality:

The Case of Citizenship and Immigration

Tuesday, September 30 (7 to 8:30 pm), Hosted at Davidson College

Forum #2: Balancing Self-Government and National Stability:

The Case of Presidents, Institutions, and the People

Wednesday, October 30 (5 to 6:30 pm), Hosted at UNC-Chapel Hill

Forum #3: Balancing Liberty and General Welfare:

The Case of Personal Freedoms and Social Safety Nets

Wednesday, February 11 (7 to 8:30 pm), Hosted at Davidson College

Forum #4: Justice and the Rule of Law:

The Case of Constitutional Rights and Judicial Interpretation

Tuesday, March 24 (6 to 7:30 pm), Hosted at Duke University

*A Journey Together of Rediscovery, Reexamination, and Recommitment -
250 Years in the Making*

250th Anniversary American Values Expert Roundtable

Balancing Unity and Equality: The Case of Citizenship and Immigration



Danielle Battisti

Associate Professor of History
University of Nebraska at Omaha



Philip Cafaro

Professor of Philosophy (Ret.)
Colorado State University



Fernando Tesón

Tobias Simon Eminent Scholar
Florida State University
College of Law



Hrishikesh Joshi

Assistant Professor of Philosophy
University of Arizona

September 30
7 pm to 8:30 pm
Davidson College
900 Room
(and online)
Register by 9/20

Moderator:



John Wertheimer

William R. Kenan, Jr.
Professor of History
Davidson College

Getting Involved: Three Main Options

Expert Roundtable
Watch Party

The Single Main
Event Model

The Multiple Small
Conversation Model

The Classroom
Model

Watch Party Concept



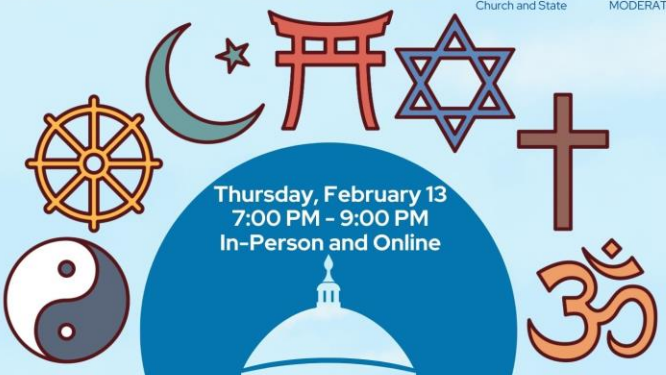
 *Winter 2025 Deliberative Forum* 

Religion in Public Life:

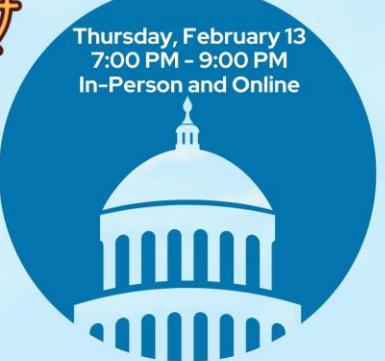
What role should religion play in the public square and government policies?

Come hear from a panel of experts on this issue and then discuss it with your fellow participants!

					
Robert Destro Professor of Law Catholic University	William McKeith Pastor Reeves Temple A.M.E. Zion Church	Hadia Mubarak Associate Professor of Religion Queens University	Nancy Petty Senior Pastor Pullen Memorial Baptist Church	Brian Silva VP of Outreach Americans United for Separation of Church and State	Jason Blum Associate Professor of Writing Davidson College MODERATOR



Thursday, February 13
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
In-Person and Online



 Visit us at
deliberativecitizenship.org

 Register to join the
conversation!

Co-Sponsored by the Deliberative Citizenship Initiative, Chaplain's Office, and Political Science and Religious Studies Departments



Getting Involved: Ten Main Variables

Facilitation

Expected #
of People

Deliberation
Guide

Length of
Time

Audience

Format

Expected
Outcomes

Conversation
Agreements

Follow-Up

Iteration

The DCI Model

Design Variable	DCI Model
Facilitation	Yes, Trained Student Facilitators
Expected # of People	150
Deliberation Guide	Yes, Full Version
Length of Time	2 Hours
Audience	Students, Faculty, Staff, Community Members, Alumni
Format (and Food)	Small Groups, Online and In-Person (No Food)
Expected Outcomes	Increased Understanding, Conversation Reports
Conversation Agreements	Yes
Follow-Up	Pathways Guide, Invitation to Future Events
Iteration	Yes, but Optional

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DCI 250th Anniversary American Values
Community Conversations

Fall 2025 D Team Series

**Topic #1: Balancing
Unity and Equality:**

*The Case of Citizenship
and Immigration*

**Topic #2: Balancing Self-
Government and**

National Stability:

*The Case of Presidents,
Institutions, and the People*



DAVIDSON
Deliberative Citizenship Initiative



Facilitation

DCI Fellows



Deliberation Facilitator Training

DELIBERATION FACILITATOR TRAINING 2025

DELIBERATIVE CITIZENSHIP INITIATIVE
DAVIDSON COLLEGE

August 31 and September 7
1:30-5:30 pm

Davidson College,
Hurt Hub
(Virtual Option Available)

Free Registration!
Sign-up on
WildCatSync



@davidsondci
@davidson_dci
deliberativecitizenship.com



The DCI is hosting a deliberation facilitator training open to all Davidson students, faculty, and staff, and to members of the wider community! This training will equip participants to:

- **Facilitate difficult discussions**
- **Organize and host deliberations**
- **Encourage deliberative dispositions and humane instincts**
- **Build community through productive discourse**

Sign up today and join the growing community of individuals dedicated to building democracy, one conversation at a time.



Format

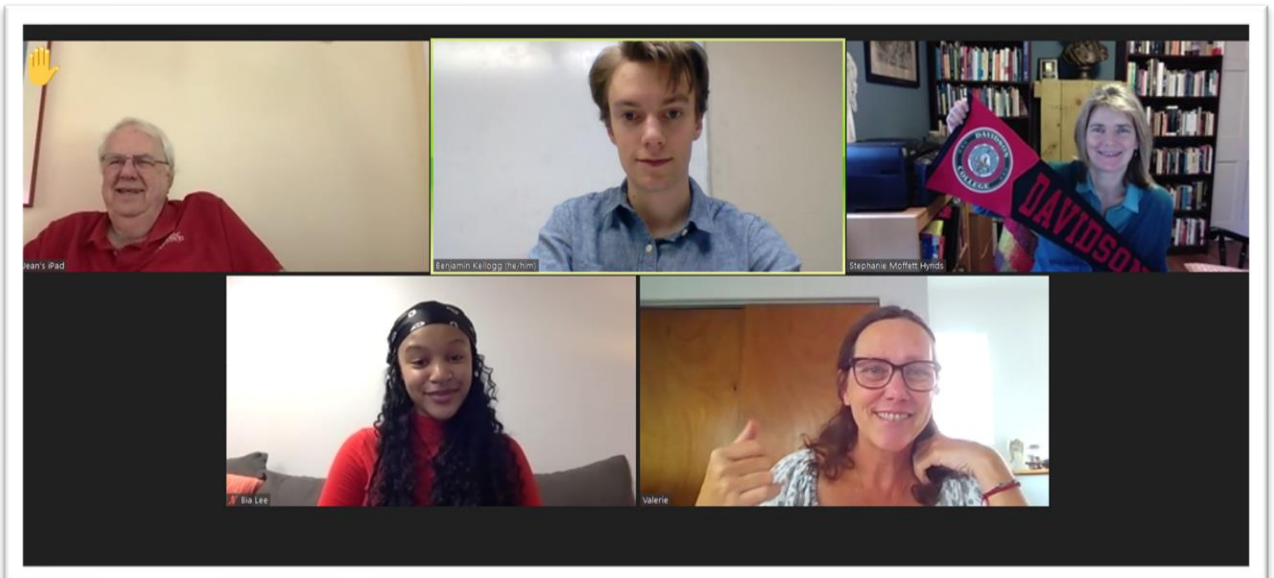
- Online or In-Person
- Food or No Food
- Size and Types of Tables
- Size of Small Group Discussions



Deliberative “D” Teams



Deliberative “D” Teams

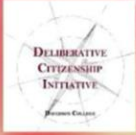


The Large Event Option: DCI Kickoff Parties



The Food Option: Honor Code Campus Conversation



 **The Honor Code**

How can we establish a more robust culture of academic integrity at Davidson?

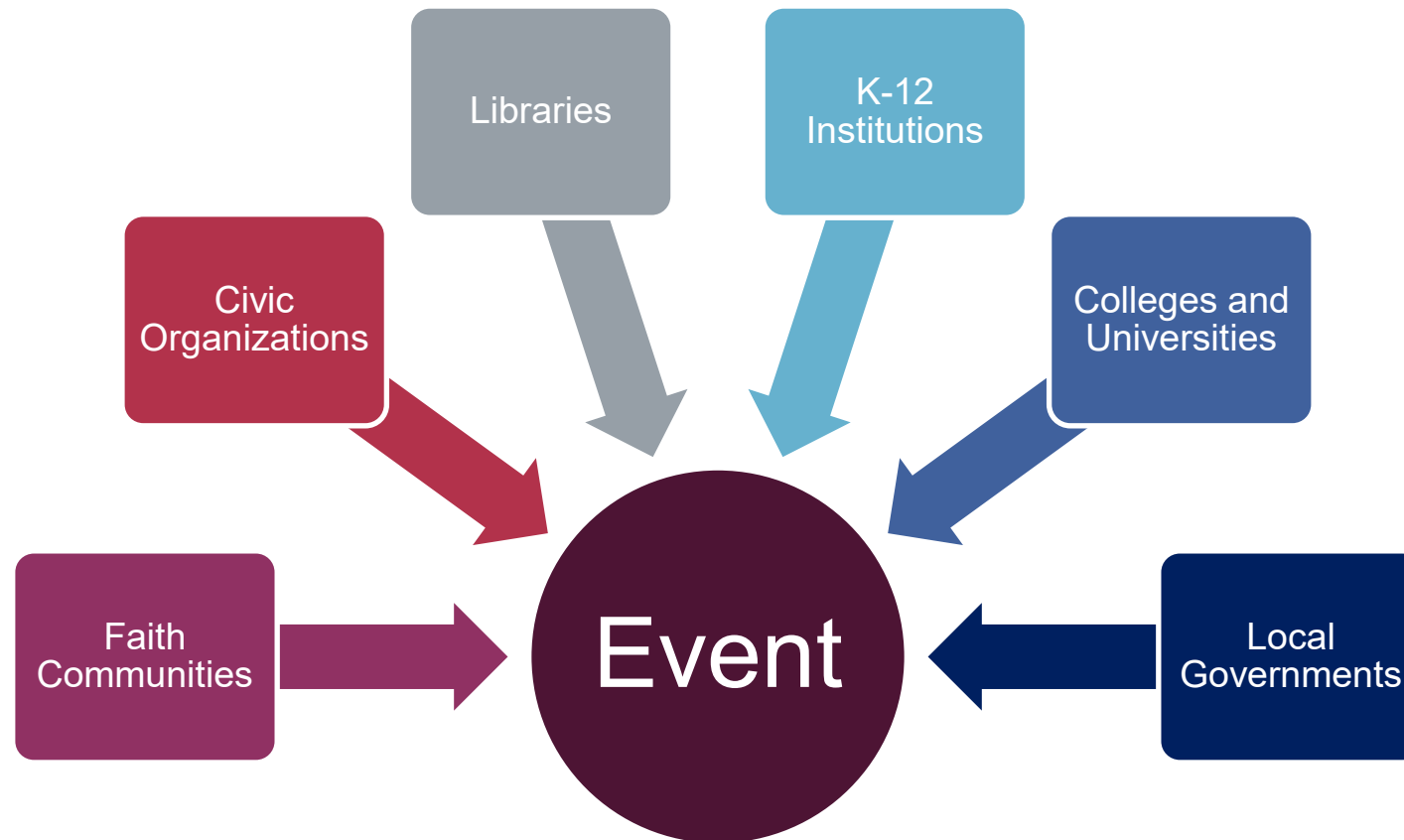
A CAMPUS CONVERSATION

Dinner provided!

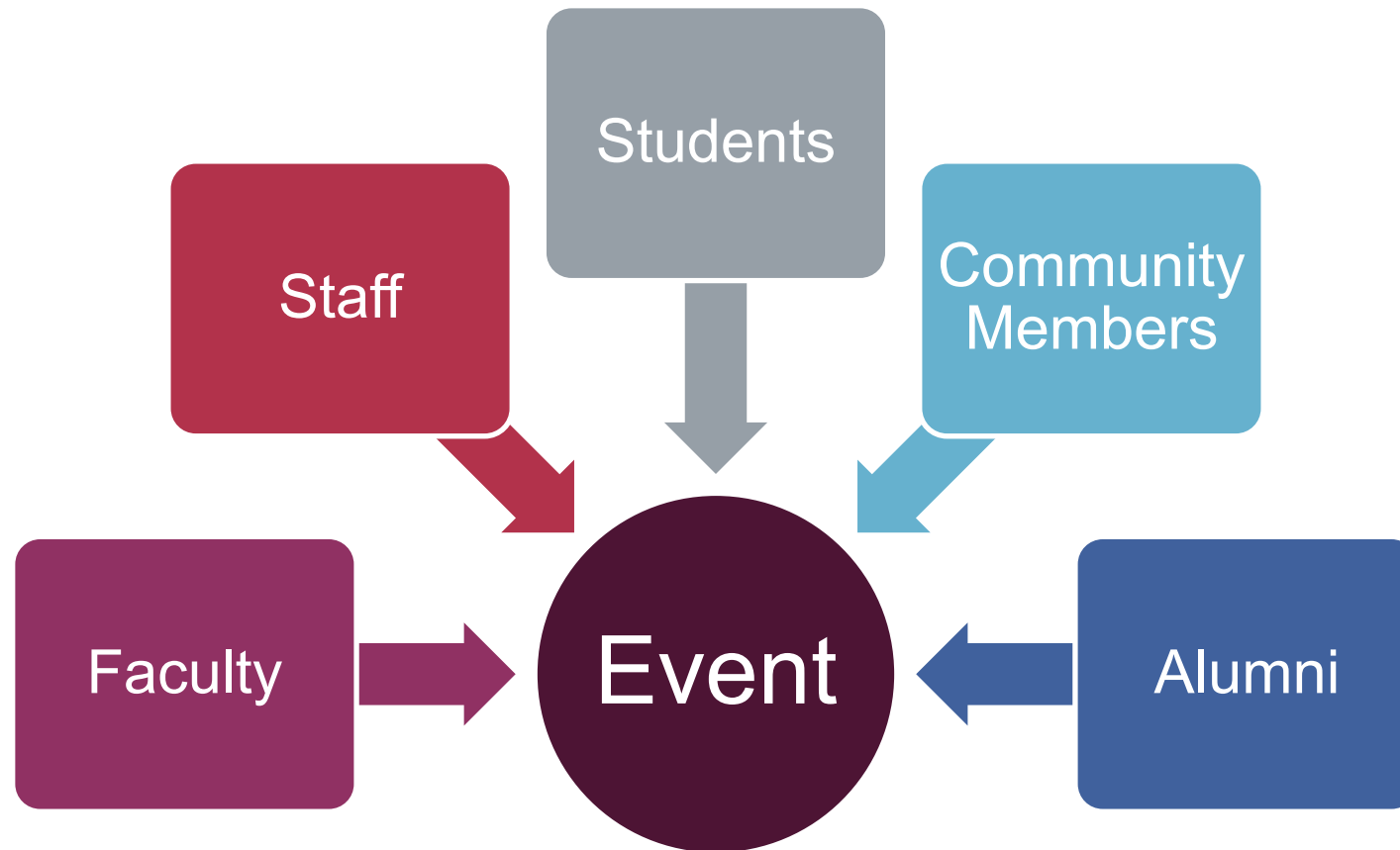
Thursday, March 27

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
LILLY GALLERY
DAVIDSON COLLEGE

Audience



Audience



Length of Time

- The Full Experience: 2 Hours
- The Deeper Experience: 1.5 Hours
- The Entry-Level Experience: 1 Hour

Deliberation Guide



A DCI Deliberation Guide

Balancing Unity and Equality: The Case of Citizenship and Immigration

How should immigration policies balance national cohesion with a commitment to the equal dignity of all people?

About the Deliberative Series on American Values

As the United States nears the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the nation's founding, this Deliberative Series on American Values invites participants to reflect on the foundational ideals that have shaped our republic. Approaching this milestone in an era marked by historical amnesia and selective memory, the series aims to foster a more complete understanding of our nation's past and present. Each forum draws from both the Declaration and the Constitution's Preamble to explore a pair of core American values that often complement each other but also have been – and remain – at the heart of deep tensions, particularly during moments of national change. Through dialogue grounded in history, informed by philosophical inquiry, and connected to current policy challenges, this series and this guide is designed to encourage thoughtful deliberation on how best to uphold and balance these enduring commitments in an ever-changing democracy.

Format for Deliberation

Before the Deliberation

- I. Read this Deliberation Guide (Required)

During the Deliberation

- I. Setting Expectations (5 min.)
- II. Getting to Know Each Other (10 min.)
- III. Defining Unity & Equality (15 min.)
- IV. Connecting with Other Values (10 min.)
- V. Analyzing the History of Unity & Equality in the US (20 min.)
- VI. Break (5 min.)
- VII. Considering the Case of Immigration and Citizenship (25 min.)
- VIII. Identifying Value Priorities in the Immigration Conversation (20 min.)
- IX. Reflections (10 min.)

Getting to Know Each Other (10 min.)

In this section, we will take less than a minute to share our names and 2-3 aspects of our identities that are important to us. These could be our gender pronouns, our occupation, our family status (e.g., husband, mother, etc.), our hometown, our favorite hobby, etc. Please also explain briefly why these aspects of your identity are important to you. If you are online, while there is no pressure to do so, everyone is welcome to type in any, all, or none of these aspects of your identity into your Zoom nameplate after your name (just right-click on your own image and click "Rename").

Then we will briefly answer each of the two questions below:

1. If someone asked you to teach a class on one topic, what would you teach?
2. Where would you travel if it were possible?

Understanding Unity and Equality (15 min.)

Incorporating both American traditions and personal experiences and understandings, in this section we will explore two crucial terms in political life: unity and equality. We will each take 2 minutes to answer the two questions below, without interruption or crosstalk. After everyone has spoken once, the group is welcome to take a few minutes for clarifying or follow-up questions and responses. Continue exploring these questions as time allows.

1. In the context of America's foundational values, what is a key image for you of national unity? How would you define such unity? What are its key foundations or characteristics?
2. In the context of America's foundational values, what is a key image for you of equality? How would you define such equality? What are its key foundations or characteristics?

Connecting with Other Values (10 min.)

Unity and equality can both be seen as ends in themselves and means to achieve additional goals. For instance, unity helps build social trust and a shared sense of purpose, which are essential for collective problem-solving and civic cooperation. Equality ensures everyone has a fair chance to participate, strengthening both the legitimacy and inclusiveness of our democracy. As such, it is important to identify which of these other values are important to us, so we can consider how they relate to the values of unity and equality. Below are some examples of values and ideas that might resonate with you.

Conversation Agreements

Deliberative Dispositions

The DCI has identified several “deliberative dispositions” as critical to the success of deliberative enterprises. When participants adopt these dispositions, they are much more likely to feel their deliberations are meaningful, respectful, and productive. Several of the Conversation Agreements recommended below directly reflect and reinforce these dispositions, which include a commitment to egalitarianism, open mindedness, empathy, charity, attentiveness, and anticipation, among others. A full list and description of these dispositions is available at <https://deliberativecitizenship.org/deliberative-dispositions/>.

Conversation Agreements

In [entering into](#) this discussion, to the best of our ability, we each agree to:

1. Be authentic and respectful
2. Be an attentive and active listener
3. Be a purposeful and concise speaker
4. Approach fellow deliberators’ stories, experiences, and arguments with curiosity, not Hostility
5. Assume the best - and not the worst - about the intentions and values of others, and avoid snap judgements
6. Demonstrate intellectual humility, recognizing that no one has all the answers, by asking questions and making space for others to do the same
7. Critique the idea we disagree with, not the person expressing it, and remember to practice empathy
8. Note areas of both agreement and disagreement
9. Respect the confidentiality of the discussion
10. Avoid speaking in absolutes (e.g., “All people think this,” or “No educated people hold that view”)

Organizing and Hosting Tips

- Identify people to be involved
- Identify audiences to invite
- Map out a timeline
- Find spaces and times
- Get the word out about the Roundtables and the Community Conversations via emails, flyers, networks, and word-of-mouth

Timeline

Expert Roundtables

Forum #1: Balancing Unity and Equality:

The Case of Citizenship and Immigration

Tuesday, September 30 (7 to 8:30 pm), Hosted at Davidson College

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The Case of Constitutional Rights and Judicial Interpretation

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Community Conversations

Week of Oct. 6

Week of Nov. 3

Week of Feb. 16

Week of Mar. 30

Student Involvement



The Deliberation Organization Wheel





Thank you!

Questions are Welcome