

THE DELIBERATIVE CITIZEN

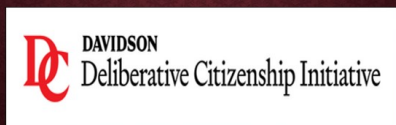
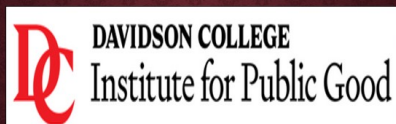
Δ Monthly Newsletter from the DCI



October 2025 Edition

Welcome to the seventh edition of the DCI's new publication, *The Deliberative Citizen*. Learn more about the new Institute for Public Good, check out the recording from our recent Expert Roundtable, and sign up for a related Community Conversation. You can also read some thought-provoking blog posts from our DCI Student and Faculty Fellows. The student fellows discuss friendships across the aisle, the power of language, the importance of asking "why" questions, and bringing deliberative practices into informal conversations. Drexel University Assistant Professor Alberto Morales shares how he embedded deliberation into a course on race across the Americas, while Davidson College Associate Professor Kristen Thompson explains how she brought a deliberative approach to her Introduction to Astronomy course.

News



The Deliberative Citizenship Initiative is Now Part of Davidson College's Institute for Public Good

In exciting news, the DCI has joined the new Institute for Public Good recently unveiled by Davidson College President Doug Hicks. The goal of the institute is to foster academic and intellectual collaboration that equips students to address society's challenges and emerge as ethical public leaders, and it will do so across five main program areas. Click the link below to learn more!

[LEARN MORE](#)

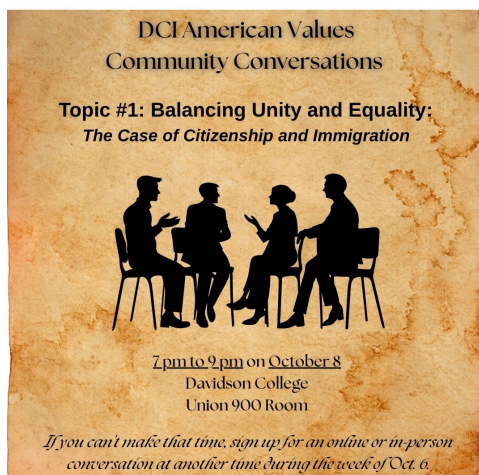


Recording Available from Expert Roundtable on Unity, Equality, and Immigration

The first Expert Roundtable in our American Values Deliberative Forum Series, "Balancing Unity and Equality: The Case of Citizenship and Immigration," was held on 9/30 at 7 pm at Davidson College. Learn more and check out the recording at the link below!

[WATCH IT NOW](#)

Upcoming Programs



American Values Community Conversations

Following our Expert Roundtable on Equality, Unity, and Immigration, the DCI is hosting 2-hour Community Conversations (like D Teams) the week of October 6 to give participants a chance to deliberate about the topics themselves. The primary time and place is Oct. 8 in the 900 Room on campus, but there are other in-person and online options as well. Sign up to join!

[SIGN UP TODAY](#)

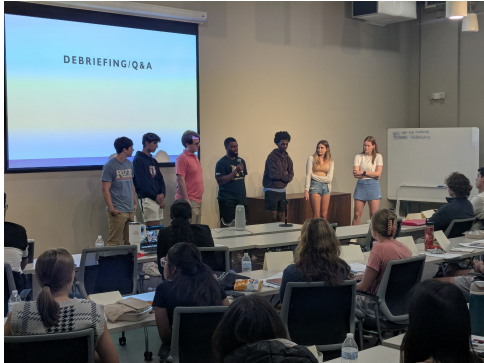


250th Anniversary American Values Forum Series

The American Values Deliberative Forum Series of Expert Roundtables and Community Conversations the DCI continues on October 30 with an event at UNC Chapel Hill on "Balancing Self-Government and National Stability: The Case of Presidents, Institutions, and the People." Stay tuned for more info about how to register coming soon!

[LEARN MORE](#)

Recent Programs



Event Re-Cap: Deliberation Facilitator Training

The DCI's 6th annual Deliberation Facilitator Training Program, held on 8/31 and 9/7, was an interactive, hands-on, and free training that taught attendees how to host and moderate hard conversations on contentious topics.

[LEARN MORE](#)

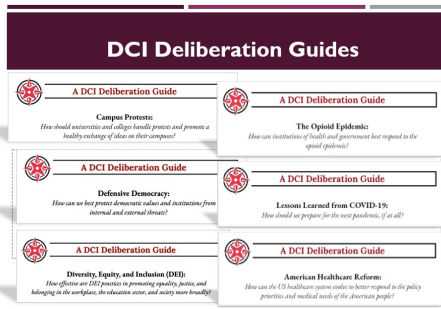


Event Re-Cap: Webinar on the American Values Deliberative Forum Series

Want to do something related to the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, but not sure where to start? Click the link below to check out this recent webinar about the American Values Deliberative Forum Series for ideas about conversations you can host in your community.

[WATCH NOW](#)

Spotlight



DCI Deliberation Guides and Pathway Guides Now Available on the DCI Website

Over the past six years, the DCI has now produced 50 Deliberation Guides for its Deliberative Forums and D Teams. Written by DCI staff and fellows, these guides are now available on the DCI website, coupled with Pathways Guides that provide actions to consider pursuing after deliberations on the associated topics.

CHECK THEM
OUT

Student Insights



Can Friendship Cross the Aisle? A College Student's Take

DCI Fellow Grace Zagoria '27 explores the challenges of being friends with people with different political views than yourself. Should you bring up political topics with them, or avoid them? Is such avoidance contributing to our polarization? Should we seek out such friendships?

LEARN MORE



The Power of Language in Writing and Engaging Contentious Histories

Recent Davidson grad and former DCI fellow Luna Noguchi '25 shares her experience working on the Ginkgo Tree Project last year and how it revealed how careful attention to language can spark and enable respectful dialogue on sensitive topics across longstanding divides.

[LEARN MORE](#)



The Importance Of “Why?”

What can make real-time, informal "pop-up" deliberations possible? DCI Fellow Ben Files '25 found through his deliberation project that the power of simple, respectful "why" questions helped participants open up and share the reasons behind their positions in authentic ways.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Small Talks, Big Ideas: Transforming Informal Conversations into Deliberation

Can small talk engage with big ideas? Jane McNeill '28 shares how the popup deliberations she organized with several other DCI Fellows used informal but meaningful conversations to foster deeper connections and create stepping stones to other deliberative opportunities.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Faculty Insights

DeeP Collaborative Series



Alberto Morales
Drexel University

Embedding Deliberation in a Course on Race Across the Americas

Check out how Alberto Morales, Assistant Professor of Global Studies and Modern Languages at Drexel University, embedded deliberation in his course on "Race Across the Americas." In one student's words, the course "made me uncomfortable which allowed me to grow as an individual."

[CHECK IT OUT](#)

DeeP Collaborative Series



Kristen Thompson
Davidson College

A Deliberative Approach to Understanding the Universe

Deliberation and astronomy? Learn how Dr. Kristen Thompson, an Associate Professor of Physics at Davidson College, integrated deliberative activities about constellations, light pollution, telescopes, and indigenous peoples into her introduction to astronomy course.

[CHECK IT OUT](#)

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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