

THE DELIBERATIVE CITIZEN

Δ Monthly Newsletter from the DCI



January 2026 Edition

Welcome to the ninth edition of the DCI's publication, *The Deliberative Citizen*! We've got some great news to share, some awesome upcoming programs to invite you to, and some stimulating blog posts from our student and faculty fellows for you to check out. From a historic grant to featured expert videos on an international platform to exposure at a national conference on civil discourse, the DCI has recently been at the forefront of efforts to advance more dialogue and deliberation on college campuses. It also will continue its American Values Deliberative Forum Series with its Spring D Teams and Expert Roundtables as well as host its regular Semester Kickoff Party. We encourage you to join us for any and all of these upcoming programs. Read on to learn more about the work we've been doing and the exciting plans we have for 2026!

News



Davidson College Institute for Public Good Wins Historic \$4M Federal Grant to Foster Civil Debate

Some exciting news! Davidson's IPG just received a \$4 million federal grant that will expand the work of the DCI to foster civil discourse across 100 college & university campuses. DCI Faculty Director Graham Bullock will lead this new effort.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Deliberative Dialogue: A Catalyst for Critical Thinking

DCI Contributes to ACUE Deliberative Dialogue Quick Studies

The Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) has launched a great online series of Quick Studies about deliberative dialogue. Learn more and check out several expert videos featuring DCI Faculty Director Graham Bullock posted on the DCI Blog.

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DCI's NC Collaborations Highlighted at National Conference Hosted at UC San Diego

The DCI was recently recognized at a national conference for both its "all-of-campus" approach to civil discourse and the regional collaborations it has been working on with UNC Chapel Hill, NC Campus Engagement, and other institutions in North Carolina.

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Upcoming Programs



Expert Roundtable #3 on Liberty and General Welfare: The Case of Social Safety Nets

The American Values Deliberative Forum Series commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence continues Feb. 11 at 7 pm with a **Roundtable on Liberty and General Welfare: The Case of Social Safety Nets** featuring experts from Cato, Duke, UNC, & WVU. Register at the link below and join us in person at Davidson College or online.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Registration Now Open for Spring 2026 D Teams

Want to commemorate America's 250th anniversary? Interested in discussing American values like liberty, general welfare, justice, and the rule of law? Have opinions about social safety nets & our constitutional rights? Then join a DCI Spring D Team to share your views and listen to the perspectives of others on these important topics. Registration deadline is 1/30.

[SIGN UP TODAY](#)



Spring 2026 DCI Kick-Off Party

Come help us launch the semester with pizza, games, prizes, and conversation on a wide range of topics at this kickoff party hosted by the DCI. Hang out with the DCI's Fellows and Senior Fellows and learn more about the DCI's upcoming programs and plans.

Thursday, January 22nd
Alvarez Union Atrium
7:00pm - 9:00pm

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Spotlight



Passing Along Some Tips for Holiday Conversations

As we celebrate the beginning of 2026, we pass along some tips from two organizations that we shared before the holidays on the DCI Blog about how best to navigate conversations that touch on contentious topics. We hope they are helpful as you re-connect with friends and family in the new year.

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Student Insights

DCI Fellow Blog Series

If Not Deliberation, Then What?



Desi Molina '29

If Not Deliberation, Then What?

Deliberation is often frustrating. But what is the alternative? DCI Fellow Desi Molina '29 argues deliberating with each other, despite the challenges & especially in our polarized times, is a sign of love, an act of hope, & a foundation of a free society.

[LEARN MORE](#)

DCI Fellow Blog Series

Deliberation Beyond Pride and Prejudice



Rosie Arnaudova '28

Deliberation Beyond Pride and Prejudice

What can help us move beyond our pride and prejudice? DCI Fellow Rosie Arnaudova '28 shares how her D Team experience helped her re-examine her biases and assumptions as she learned why others held beliefs different from her own.

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DCI Fellow Blog Series

The Davidson Difference: Lessons from the SNF Ithaca National Student Dialogue



Saeran Dewar '28 & Katie Jung '28

The Davidson Difference: Lessons from the SNF Ithaca National Student Dialogue

For the 3rd year running, 2 Davidson students attended the U. of Delaware's National Student Dialogue. DCI Fellows Saeran Dewar '28 & Katie Jung '28 share how their Davidson deliberative experience has been different from attendees from other schools.

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DCI Fellow Blog Series

Face to Face: Rediscovering Our Shared Humanity Through In-Person Deliberation



Mary Molloy Blackstock '26

Face to Face: Rediscovering Our Shared Humanity Through In-Person Deliberation

In her blog post, "Face to Face: Rediscovering Our Humanity Through In-Person Deliberation," DCI Fellow Mary Molloy Blackstock '26 explores the reasons for why we need to talk in person.

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DCI Fellow Blog Series

The Silent Stakeholders: Why Youth Voices Matter in Deliberation



Nehal Bhatia '29

The Silent Stakeholders: Why Youth Voices Matter in Deliberation

DCI Fellow Nehal Bhatia '29 makes the case for why youth are "The Silent Stakeholders" and why their voices are crucial in deliberation.

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Faculty Insights

DeeP Collaborative Series



Fangzhi He
Davidson College

Voice, Identity, and Self: The Value of Dialogue in the Writing Classroom

First year students may feel particularly hesitant about sharing their views in class on controversial topics. Learn how Dr. Fangzhi He has introduced more deliberation into her freshman writing course to build their confidence in expressing themselves.

[CHECK IT OUT](#)

DeeP Collaborative Series



Gina Amatangelo
The University of Texas at San Antonio

Deep in the Heart of a Municipal Election in Texas

Learn how Dr. Gina Amatangelo at The University of Texas at San Antonio integrated deliberation techniques into her undergraduate Civic Leadership seminar. Students wrote deliberation guides and hosted a forum related to the 2025 municipal election.

[CHECK IT OUT](#)

DeeP Collaborative Series



Daina Nathaniel
Wingate University

Deliberative Dialogue: A Lesson on Assumptions

Teaching deliberatively requires thinking reflectively. Wingate University Professor of Communication Daina Nathaniel demonstrates this quality in her blog post about her assumptions about her students, the issues they discussed, and her own teaching.

[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 we encourage you 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](#)

The Deliberative Citizenship Initiative is Now Part of the Institute for Public Good!

The DCI has joined Davidson College's new Institute for Public Good. 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!

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