



Center for Public Deliberation

*Dedicated to enhancing local democracy
through improved public communication
and community problem solving*

Established Fall 2006

Our Three Goals:

Enhance the Local Civic Culture

- Increase citizen participation in community problem solving
- Decrease the sense of polarization, cynicism, and frustration with politics
- Help develop a civic habit of relying on deliberation to address local concerns

Expand Collaborative Decision-Making

- Promote interconnections between local government and citizens
- Expand and improve the role of the public in decision-making processes
- Help incorporate deliberative techniques in local institutions

Improve Civic Pedagogy

- Study and improve methods of developing citizenship skills at all levels (K-12, higher education, citizen education)
- Promote the inclusion of deliberative concepts and activities in curricula

Center Activities:

Moderate National Issues Forum discussions for university and local community groups using nationally-tested material

Produce original material on local/state issues following the NIF model and moderate public forums on those issues

Host workshops on moderator training, issue framing, and public deliberation techniques

Develop and host original workshops specifically tied to the needs of organizations and institutions in the Northern Colorado area

Assist with special projects for the University, the College of Liberal Arts, Larimer County, the City of Fort Collins, and the Poudre School District

Work with faculty at CSU and the Poudre School District to help them incorporate deliberative activities into their curricula and classrooms

Explore other activities and projects tied to deliberative democracy and public participation such as deliberative polling, town hall meetings, citizen advisory committees, citizen juries, focus groups, community dialogues, public policy study circles, etc.

Center Funding

- \$5,000 annual grant from Council on Public Policy Education (3 years)
- \$5,000 annual discretionary funding from Department of Speech Communication
- Director “paid” through teaching requirement (25% of total job responsibilities involve running Center and administrating course for student associates)
- 3 additional grants (\$10,000, \$7,000, and \$5,600) have already been awarded
- Students “paid” through course credit
- Office and copying paid by department

Center for Public Deliberation Advisory Board

Greg Dickinson, CSU Department of Speech Communication

Lyn Kathlene, Director, Colorado Institute of Public Policy

Barb Kistler, Director, CSU Student Leadership and Civic Engagement office

Ellen Laubhan, Director of Communications, Poudre School District

Brad MacDonald, CSU Department of Political Science

John Meyer, President of Fort Collins Church Network
and Pastor of Summitview Church

Robert Moore, Executive Editor, *Fort Collins Coloradoan*

Ginny Sawyer, Neighborhood Administrator, City of Fort Collins

Dixie Schmatz, Spokeswoman, Larimer County League of Women Voters

William Timpson, CSU Department of Education

Michael Liggett, PSD Think Tank & Liggett, Smith, & Wilson

