

CSU Center for Public Deliberation Student Associate Application

The CSU Center for Public Deliberation (CPD) was established in the Fall of 2006 and is “*Dedicated to enhancing local democracy through improved public communication and community problem solving.*” Deliberation is an approach to politics in which citizens, not just experts or politicians, are involved in public decision making. Working with trained facilitators who utilize a variety of deliberative techniques, citizens come together and consider relevant facts and values from multiple points of view; listen to one another in order to think critically about the various options before them and consider the underlying tensions and tough choices inherent to most public issues; and ultimately seek to come to some conclusion for action in the form of a reasoned public judgment. Working as an affiliate of the National Issues Forum network (www.nifi.org) and part of the National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation (www.ncdd.org), the CPD organizes and hosts many events in the local community, including public forums on national and local issues and various workshops tied to public participation and civic engagement. CPD students are trained as non-partisan facilitators and conveners, focused on helping the local community come together and address critical issues more effectively. Deliberation requires safe places for citizens to come together, good and fair information to help structure the conversation, and skilled facilitators to guide the process. The CPD is dedicated to providing these three key ingredients to Northern Colorado.

Student associates working within the CPD typically make a two semester commitment, but a one semester program is available for graduating seniors. Student associates will receive 3 hours of SPCM 408 (Applied Deliberative Techniques) credit their first semester and at least one hour of SPCM 486 Practicum credit for their second semester with the CPD. In the Fall 2009, class time will be **Tuesdays and/or Thursdays from 3:30-4:45pm** (though we will not meet every week depending on the amount of outside of class work being completed). All student associates will also be required to attend an all-day workshop on Saturday, August 29th (after the first week of class). The first semester will focus on securing an understanding of the research and theory connected to deliberative democracy, as well as developing skills on how to convene and facilitate deliberative forums. First semester students, once trained, will also assist in running forums on various issues. During their second semester, student associates will work in groups on an issue of local importance. They will need to have the same class slot open, but will only attend class when necessary for projects. Approximately **10 new students** will be selected to begin their work with the CPD in the fall of 2009, and they will join a group of returning students going through the first semester of the program this spring.

In general, the CPD is **seeking students that are committed to improving our democracy** and interested in public policy issues, especially from a local perspective. Students must be comfortable speaking in front of groups and working with diverse audiences. Considering we are still in the formative years of the CPD, students need to be “self-starters” and creative in the sense that the assignments they will be completing for the CPD will require the students to work on their own and make decisions without clear instructions.

Students will be selected based on a variety of criteria, including:

- Current grade point average
- Faculty or community recommendations (not required)
- Experience with meeting facilitation, local or state government, and/or community organizations (not required)
- Student area of interest and/or student’s ability to bring something unique to the team
- Performance in SPCM 200 (Public Speaking) and/or SPCM 207 (Public Argumentation), if applicable

Colorado State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, sexual orientation, veteran status or disability. Ethnic minorities, women and other protected class members are encouraged to apply and to so identify themselves.

Applications are currently being accepted, with the deadline for full consideration being Monday, April 13th. Feel free to contact Martin Carcasson at his office in Eddy 217, by phone at 491-5628, or by email to cpd@colostate.edu to set up a one-on-one meeting if you have any questions about the program. Applications can be returned to Dr. Carcasson in Eddy 217, or the main SPCM office in Eddy 202. Initial decisions will be announced the week of April 13th. You can also visit the CPD website at www.cpd.colostate.edu for more information.

**CSU Center for Public Deliberation
Student Associate Application Fall 2009 – Spring 2010**

(email Martín Carcasson at mcarcas@colostate.edu or visit www.cpd.colostate.edu for an electronic application if you would prefer to type your answers. Applications due April 13 for full consideration, but will still be accepted afterwards)

Name: _____ Major: _____

Classification: Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior Grad student Expected Grad Date: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

If applicable, instructor for SPCM 200 (Public Speaking)*: _____

If applicable, instructor for SPCM 207 (Rhetoric and Argumentation)*: _____

* (SPCC 200 and 207 are preferred prerequisites, particularly for SPCM students, but are not required)
FYI, student transcripts will be accessed to ascertain your overall GPA and grades in these courses

In the fall semester, we are particularly looking for students to focus on the following areas. Please indicate whether you would have a specific interest, and briefly explain that interest below (check a maximum of 3):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poverty/Workforce issues in Larimer County | <input type="checkbox"/> The Latino/a community in Northern Colorado |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community networking and development | <input type="checkbox"/> Fort Collins growth/development/sustainability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> K-12 issues, youth issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Childhood obesity/nutrition/fitness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improving the quality of higher education | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The role of media in democracy | _____ |

Additional Relevant Experiences/Jobs/Memberships/Courses:

Optional: On a separate page (please limit to one page), please explain why you are interested in the Center and provide any additional relevant information concerning how you meet the requested criteria.