

Bridging Differences: Strategies for Student Leaders in Creating Inclusive Communities through Dialogue and Conflict Resolution

Purpose:

To work with student leaders to build experience and strategies in developing and supporting diverse communities through dialogue.

Learning Strategy/Format:

3 in-person training sessions (Tuesdays 11:55 am-12:40pm)

- Tuesday, March 26, 2024
- Tuesday, April 2, 2024
- Tuesday, April 9, 2024

1 in-person/virtual panel discussion

- Title: “A Campus Where Hate Can’t Thrive: Using Your Voice for Change” – A Panel Discussion on Addressing Antisemitism, Islamophobia and Hate in the Academic Setting
- Date: Wednesday, March 20
- Time: 5 PM – 7 PM (Light refreshments served from 6:30 PM – 7 PM)
- Location: Spring Valley Building Room 100, American University -- 4801 Massachusetts Avenue Northwest Washington, DC 20016
- Eventbrite Link: [a-campus-where-hate-cant-thrive-using-your-voice-for-change](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-campus-where-hate-cant-thrive-using-your-voice-for-change)

Day 1: Welcome - Building community and exploring identity

- How do we talk to one another across lines of difference?
- How do we collectively set norms to build safe spaces for dialogue?
- How do our identities create obstacles in communication and/or allow for communication to happen?
- How do you put yourself in someone else’s shoes? How does it help your own leadership to engage in this process?

In this session, we are planning to kick off the workshops by building a community by reviewing school-based group norms for inclusive spaces. We will use that space to engage in an activity centered on identity where students will have the chance to consider someone else’s perspective.

Day 2: Developing deeper listening skills

- How can we listen to one another to better coexist?
- How can our approaches to listening inform our leadership practices?
- How can we use those listening skills to engage around the content from the AU panel in an intentional way?

In the second workshop, students will have a chance to explore the different approaches to listening and practice those skills in fostering open dialogue. They will have the chance to deepen their listening skills and consider how different approaches to listening can be used in leadership development and communication practices.

Day 3: Using dialogue to confront conflict

- How can we reframe how we look at and engage with conflict?
- How can we adapt our approaches to conflict better navigate difficult contexts and engage in changemaking?
- How can we engage in constructive dialogue during contentious times?

Bringing together the skills from the previous sessions, in this last session we will explore approaches to navigating conflict. Building on the work from the previous sessions, we will explore ways to foster inclusive dialogue during contentious times and incorporate these skills into student leadership practices.

Parental/Guardian Consent

To ensure that your child's/student's participation is in line with your preferences, we kindly request your consent for them to take part in these discussions. These conversations aim to foster understanding, empathy, and open communication among students, promoting a positive and supportive school community.

I, the undersigned, give my consent for _____ (student's name) to participate in sensitive conversations as outlined above during the academic year 2023-'24. I understand that these discussions are designed to enhance the overall well-being and social-emotional development of my child/student.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

If you have any concerns or questions regarding the sensitive conversations, please feel free to contact **Jessica Lawrence** at jessica.lawrence8@k12.dc.gov.