

College Debate 2016 selects delegates throughout U.S.

About 130 students from colleges and universities throughout the United States were selected as College Debate 2016 delegates. These delegates will lead a national conversation around the key issues that resonate with younger voters.

[College Debate 2016](#) is a first-of-its-kind initiative created by Dominican University of California to provide college students from throughout the United States a platform to discuss and debate the complex issues facing our country. Dominican is a Voter Education Partner for the [Commission on Presidential Debates](#).

Delegates attended a June 1-3 planning and training session on the Dominican campus in San Rafael, California, to organize issue-focused events and outreach on their home campuses. The programming focused on promoting civil discourse, understanding responsible digital citizenry, and avoiding stereotypes and assumptions while focusing on the issues rather than party politics.

The June schedule included:

- **Julie Winokur** presented her film [Bring it to the Table](#). Following the screening she talked with the delegates about bridging political divides, examining assumptions, and engaging in civil discourse to help move our democracy forward.
- Bring it to the Table **Table Talks**. Broken into smaller groups, the delegates will learn how to ask open questions, listen well to others, and reflect upon their own attitudes and behaviors. The students will be encouraged to speak their minds openly and authentically while learning how to communicate better, especially with those with opposing views.
- California Secretary of State **Alex Padilla** talking with delegates about getting involved in the political process.
- PBS The Open Mind host [Alexander Heffner](#) led a panel discussion focused on student activism. Heffner helped the delegates develop strategies and events – both online and on-campus – designed to engage peers in conversations focused on the issues that resonate with younger voters.
- **Dr. Sybril Brown**, a Professor of Journalism at Belmont University, led the delegates in a discussion on Digital Citizenship. Dr. Brown's research focuses on innovation, civility, and digital media.
- Issues rooms. Delegates visited issues rooms in order to meet with experts to discuss in depth the topics of importance to the delegates.

Using [#collegedebate16](#) as an identifying tag on social media platforms, delegates will begin to engage each other and their networks. Following the June meeting, they will participate in online meet-ups, webinars, and other technology-mediated tools to expand the conversation.

Delegates will return to Dominican in September for a moderated town hall meeting, which will be live-streamed to campuses across the country. During the town hall, the students will agree on the key issues - and very specific questions - for the presidential candidates to address. These questions will be presented to the moderators of the 2016 presidential debates.

April 30, 2016

