www.cpd.colostate.edu

Annual Report, Fall 2012 – Summer 2013

prepared by

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This report details the activities completed in the seventh year of the CSU Center for Public Deliberation (CPD). The reports for our first six years are also available online. For more information on the CPD, go to our public website at www.cpd.colostate.edu, our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/csucpd, or contact Martin Carcasson at mcarcas@colostate.edu or (970) 491-5628.

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Part I: CPD Highlights for 2012-2013

The seventh year of the CPD was yet another eventful year, with some exciting changes that will result in significant increased capacity in the coming years. We welcomed Katie Knobloch, Ph.D., from the University of Washington, who now serves as the associate director. Former Associate Director Leah Sprain accepted a faculty position at the University of Colorado, Boulder, but will remain connected to the CPD as a research associate. We also developed a “deliberation track” to our Masters program in the Communication Studies department, as well as a new graduate level course in Deliberation Theory and Practice, which will be taught for the first time in spring 2014. Going into the fall of 2013, four graduate students are participating in the deliberative track, which will greatly increase the impact the CPD will be able to make on the community.

The CPD worked on multiple community projects over the year across northern Colorado. We continued our work addressing issues connected to the changing demographics as baby boomers retire. After running four major events over 2011-2012, we worked closely with the Senior Transportation Coalition (in anticipation of events this fall), and ran another major “Silver Tsunami” event in Loveland with the state demographer, Elizabeth Garner, in May. We also worked with the Fort Collins Human Relations Commission to host the Elder Abuse Summit in October.

We continued our work on K-12 issues with numerous projects. In the fall, we designed and ran four community forums to gather citizen response concerning the PSD superintendent search. We worked closely with the Poudre School District Think Tank, training over 20 high school students in deliberative practice in March, and hosting bullying forums in April and May. Working with the St. Vrain Valley School District, we hosted three community and one student forum on school safety issues in February and March.

During the summer of 2013, Dr. Carcasson continued to work with the Kettering Foundation as national faculty for practitioners that are developing centers or institutes similar to the CPD in communities across the country. He also worked closely with the Colorado Associate of School Boards to train numerous school districts across the state on deliberative engagement processes.
PART II: CPD BACKGROUND

The CSU Center for Public Deliberation officially began operations in August of 2006, under the direction of Martin Carcasson, then an assistant professor in the Department of Speech Communication (now Communication Studies). The official mission statement of the CPD is, “To promote the development of a vibrant deliberative democracy in Northern Colorado.”

Public deliberation is an approach to politics in which citizens, not just experts or politicians, are deeply 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; are willing to refine and adapt their opinions and interests; and ultimately seek to come to some conclusion for action in the form of a reasoned public judgment. A video of Dr. Carcasson explaining the theory behind the CPD during an event at the Poudre Valley Library is available at http://col.st/1dhQRpj.

Working as an affiliate of the National Issues Forum network (www.nifi.org), part of the National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation (www.ncdd.org) and the University Network for Collaborative Governance (http://www.policyconsensus.org/uncg/index.html), 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, collaborative governance, and civic engagement. The CPD trains students 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.

The CPD has three primary goals:

To 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

To 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

To Improve Civic Education
- 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

The tag line used on the front of the CPD pamphlet and website perhaps best captures the overall purpose of the CPD: Dedicated to enhancing local democracy through improved public communication and community problem solving.
The organizational structure of the CPD during the Fall 2012 semester included Director Martín Carcasson, Associate Director Leah Sprain, graduate assistant Shelby Scott, an advisory board, and a group of student and community associates. In the Spring of 2013, Katie Knobloch took over as Associate Director, and Mar Parsaye as graduate assistant.

The current advisory board includes:

- Rich Alper, Board Chair
- Karrin Anderson, CSU Department of Communication Studies
- Jen Johnson, Assistant Director, CSU Student Leadership and Civic Engagement office
- Brad MacDonald, CSU Department of Political Science
- Ginny Sawyer, City Manager’s Office, City of Fort Collins
- Linda Mahan, Larimer County League of Women Voters
- William Timpson, CSU Department of Education
- Deni LaRue, Larimer County Community Information Manager
- Pete Seel, CSU Department of Journalism and Technical Communication
- Mallorie Bruns, Meridian Institute
- Karina Mullen, ConverSketch

**CPD student associates** are CSU undergraduates that are chosen for the program through an application process. Student associates (SAs) typically make at least a two semester commitment, but a one semester program is available for graduating seniors. Student associates receive 3 hours of SPCM 408 (Applied Deliberative Techniques) credit their first semester and then SPCM 486 Practicum credit for subsequent semesters. Approximately 15 new students are selected to begin their work with the CPD each semester, and they join returning students who completed their first semester of the program in a prior semester.
Student associates are trained to be impartial researchers, conveners, facilitators, and reporters of public discussion, and are involved in all aspects of CPD projects.

Community members also have the opportunity to get trained during CPD workshops and then serve as community associates, working alongside student associates assisting with CPD events. During the 2012-2013 year, several community associates helped with projects, including Myles Crane, Carole Crane, Karen Buchanan, and Rich Alper.
PART III: FALL 2012- SUMMER 2013 ACTIVITIES

This section details the primary activities of the CPD during its seventh year. It is organized in four sections: Major projects, ongoing projects, CPD research, and additional activities by Director Martín Car casson and Associate Directors Leah Sprain and Katie Knobloch.

1. MAJOR PROJECTS

PSD Superintendent search meetings
In the fall of 2012, the Poudre School District requested assistance from the CPD to gather public input regarding the ongoing superintendent search. The district administered an online survey to collect opinions regarding the qualities the community was seeking in the new superintendent, and the CPD staff completed an analysis of those survey results to develop an interactive process to more deeply explore some of the key issues that arose in the surveys. Four public forums were held:

- Monday, Sept. 24, at Fort Collins High School
- Wednesday, Sept. 26, at Rocky Mountain High School
- Thursday, Sept. 27, at Poudre High School
- Monday, Oct. 1, at Fossil Ridge High School

Each forum included six sessions:

- Session 1: Introductions and initial opinions (10 minutes)
- Session 2: Superintendent Characteristics (20 minutes)
- Session 3: Key areas of expertise (10 minutes)
- Session 4: Key criterion (10 minutes)
- Session 5: Key tensions and issues (35 minutes)
- Session 6: Final word and survey (10 minutes, less if a small group)

The data from the forums were compiled and provided to the school board to assist in their decision-making process, and CPD Director Martín Car casson gave a presentation to the school board.
Poudre Valley Public Library Civic Engagement Series

The CPD and the Poudre Valley Public Library collaborated to develop a monthly series focused on public engagement. The series included five sessions from September 2012 to April 2013.

**Session 1:** "What Kind of Talk Does Democracy Need? A Call for Building Local Capacity for Deliberative Politics."
Wednesday, September 5, 2012
Presentation by Martín Carcasson, CSU, Department of Communications and Center for Public Deliberation.

**Session 2:** Community Book Discussion
Monday, October 8, 2012
Small group discussions regarding Politics for People: Finding a Responsible Public Voice, by David Mathewsm the president of the Kettering Foundation, led by CPD Director Martín Carcasson.

**Session 3:** Public Forum
Monday, November 12, 2012
National Issues Forum-style public focus discussion utilizing Shaping our Future: How Should Higher Education Help Us Create the Future We Want? (guide available online at [http://col.st/1bbO2qe](http://col.st/1bbO2qe)). Dr. Carcasson, with help from his student associates, guided participants through small group deliberative discussions concerning higher education's public role that will be part of a conversation occurring across the country in 2012.

**Session 4:** Community Book Discussion
Monday, January 28
Community book discussion regarding The Civic Renewal Movement: Community Building and Democracy in the United States, by Carmen Sirianni and Lewis A. Friedland, which focuses on the wide variety of community innovations that have been occurring in various sectors of public life, including journalism, youth development, universities, health, and others.
Session 5: Public Forum on energy issues
Tuesday, February 19
National Issues Forum-style public focus discussion utilizing the national Energy Discussion guide developed by Public Agenda (available online at http://col.st/R3uEpG), CPD staff and students led small group deliberative discussions concerning energy issues.

Final session: How can we best improve political decision-making and community problem solving in our communities?
Monday, February 19
Utilizing an original discussion guide developed by the CPD (available at www.cpd.colostate.edu/communityplacemat-11x17format.pdf), CPD staff and students led small group deliberative discussions concerning how to best move forward as a community to improve the quality of our community decision-making.

Net Zero Energy Symposium
On October 17-18, 2012, the first annual Net Zero Cities symposium convened community members, businesses, and government leaders across Colorado and the globe to learn, share, and advance real-world paths that organizations, communities, and countries can take to attain net zero energy, carbon and waste communities and greater regional and global well-being. The symposium was organized around four key topics:

- October 17, Morning: Technologies and innovations
- October 17, Afternoon: Real world applications
- October 18, Morning: Education and mentoring
- October 18, Afternoon: Policy, cultural engagement, and value

Each session included a main speaker, followed by a panel discussion and then Q&A. At the end of each session, student facilitators from the CSU Center for Public Deliberation led small group discussions at each table, and participants completed short open-ended surveys that were collected, transcribed, and provided to the conference organizers.
Elder Abuse Forum
The Elder Abuse Forum was held at the Fort Collins Senior Center on October 22, 2012. The summit was sponsored by the Fort Collins Human Relations Commission, working with the CSU Center for Public Deliberation, as well as the Commission on Disability (COD), Senior Advisory Board (SAB), Senior Center Council (SCC), Women’s Commission (WC), Youth Advisory Board (YAB), and Larimer County Office on Aging (LCOA). Over 100 participants attended the event. The event began with a slate of speakers discussing the issue (a video of the panelists and the Q&A is available at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-if6p-CRcuw). Participants then worked with CPD students to discuss the issue, utilizing an original National Issues Forum framework developed by the CPD and Myles Crane from the Human Relations Commission (the four page document is available online at www.cpd.colostate.edu/elderabuseframework.pdf). The framework asked participates to respond to three broad approaches to addressing elder abuse:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approach 1: Increase prevention efforts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This approach focuses on proactive efforts to decrease the likelihood that elder abuse would occur, primarily by educating all the various relevant audiences connected to the issue.</td>
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</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Approach 2: Increase monitoring, reporting, and intervention</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elder abuse is under-recognized, underreported, and under-prosecuted. This approach seeks to change all three of those situations by increasing the monitoring and reporting of elder abuse, thereby ramping up the frequency of interventions that stop current abuse and adequately punish abusers in order to prevent future abuse.</td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>Approach 3: Change the culture concerning aging</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Elder abuse is a symptom of a broader problem in our culture of a general disrespect for seniors and issues related to aging. Our best move forward is to focus on changing the broader culture and sparking more intergenerational interaction and regard.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Participants talked through the issue while completing surveys regarding each approach. All the data was collected and organized and provided to the Human Relations Commission. Efforts to analyze the data and develop potential next steps are ongoing.
University of Northern Colorado LEAP Summit Sustainability Forums
On November 3, CPD students ran a session during the University of Northern Colorado LEAP conference, utilizing a new discussion guide developed by National Issues Forum entitled, *Sustaining Ourselves: How Can We Best Meet the Needs of Today and Tomorrow?* The discussion guide focuses on the following three approaches:

**Option One: Take Action to Repair and Protect Crucial Resources**
Vital resources, such as clean water and agricultural land, are dwindling quickly, with ominous implications. Well-meaning individual efforts and neighborhood recycling programs are not enough to ward off looming catastrophe. We must take urgent measures, including government regulation and pressure on businesses to solve this problem.

**Option Two: Focus the Power of Markets and Technological Innovation**
While problems related to humanity's overuse of natural resources are very real, many dire predictions in the past have been rendered irrelevant by technological and social advances. As long as the right incentives are in place, our resource-overspending problems have every chance for solution by inventors, entrepreneurs, and the market.

**Option Three: Transform Our Culture**
We need to reconnect with values that were once prized by most Americans: frugality, altruism, social connections, and living within one's means. If we can do this, we'll be healthier, happier, and more prosperous--and the planet and our communities will be in better shape too.

As the tables worked through the process, post-it notes were gathered highlighting support and concerns regarding each of the approaches. Those notes were organized and provided to former CPD student associate and local graphic facilitation artist Karina Mullen to capture in the following graphic:
SVVSD School Safety Forums
A few weeks after the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary in Connecticut, the CPD worked with the St. Vrain Valley School District, based in Longmont, CO, to run a series of forums for parents and students regarding how to best improve school safety in our schools.

Three meetings were held for the parents and community members:

- Tues., Feb. 5 at Trail Ridge Middle School
- Wed., Feb. 6 at Coal Ridge Middle School
- Thur., Feb. 7 at Erie Middle School

A student meeting was then held on March 6 at the SVVSD District offices. Students from over 20 different high schools attended.

CSU On-Campus tobacco policy forums
Working with the Associated Students of Colorado State University and the CSU Health Network, the CPD developed a survey and ran forums for staff and students to gather input regarding the on-campus tobacco policy. An initial analysis of the initial surveys identified a number of key arguments in favor of and opposed to strengthening the anti-tobacco policy. A backgrounder was developed (available online at www.cpd.colostate.edu/smokingbackgrounder.pdf), and was used as the basis of the conversations at the forums.

PSD Think Tank Bullying Forums

Working with the PSD Think Tank, the CPD developed material to engage middle school students on the issue of bullying. An original issue framework was developed and is available online (www.cpd.colostate.edu/lesherbullyingguide.pdf)

The background material offered 4 approaches for the students to consider:

**Approach One**: Schools Must Get Tough on Bullying

**Approach Two**: Equip Students to Handle Conflict and Address Bullying

**Approach Three**: Engage Parents & the Community in Bullying Solutions
Approach Four: Focus on creating supportive, enriching school cultures of respect and inclusiveness

CPD student associates worked alongside trained high school students from the PSD Think Tank to pilot the material with middle school students at Polaris Expeditionary School on April 4th and then Lesher Middle School on May 8th. CPD staff and the Think Tank students then presented the results of the pilot forums to the school board on May 28th. The Think Tank students also submitted a proposal to the Colorado Association of School Board annual convention to present the design and results of the pilot forums, and that proposal was accepted. The students will present in December in Colorado Springs.

Loveland Connecting Seniors to our Community Forum
On May 2, 2013, the Loveland Senior Advisory Board and the CPD hosted the “Connecting Seniors to Our Community” event at the Loveland Chilson Community Center. Over 50 participants joined members of the Senior Advisory Board and CPD student facilitators for two hours of presentations and discussion on the rapidly changing demographics and the significant growth in the percentage of population that will soon be over 65. Attendees participated with facilitators in small group discussions concerning how our community should respond to these coming changes.

CPD student associates Hannah Vancuren and Fiona Jeppson facilitate discussions during the Loveland Connecting Seniors to our Community Forum.
The first part of the meeting involved three presentations:

- “Welcoming Remarks,” Cecil Gutierrez, Mayor of Loveland
  (video available online at [http://col.st/1bwx0Ch](http://col.st/1bwx0Ch))

- “Aging of Colorado and Larimer County,” Elizabeth Garner, Colorado State Demographer
  (slides are available online at [www.cpd.colostate.edu/loveland-demographer-report.pdf](http://www.cpd.colostate.edu/loveland-demographer-report.pdf) and a video of her presentation is available at [http://col.st/1bwwXGv](http://col.st/1bwwXGv)).

- “The ‘Silver Tsunami as Golden Opportunity” Martín Carasson, CPD
  (slides are available at [www.cpd.colostate.edu/loveland-carasson-slides.pdf](http://www.cpd.colostate.edu/loveland-carasson-slides.pdf), and a video of his presentation is available at [http://youtu.be/0d80Y_gPgfY](http://youtu.be/0d80Y_gPgfY)).

A full report of the event is available online at [www.cpd.colostate.edu/lovelandseniorsevent-fullreport.pdf](http://www.cpd.colostate.edu/lovelandseniorsevent-fullreport.pdf)

UniverCity Connections stakeholder meeting
In January 17, CPD students and staff assisted with facilitation and notetaking for the stakeholder meeting of the UniverCity Connections process at the Lincoln Center in Fort Collins to gather feedback on a draft of the new Action Plan.
2. ONGOING PROJECTS

**PSD Think Tank** - The CPD continues to work with a group of PSD high school students representing Poudre School District high schools as they serve in the PSD Think Tank. Think Tank students have been often been participants in CPD events, and then in February of 2008, twelve students were trained as facilitators during an all day workshop run by Dr. Carcasson. Additional trainings were held in February 2011 and February 2013 for the new cohort of students. In the fall of 2009, Dr. Carcasson, Think Tank organizer Elaine Holmes, and several of the students presented at the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) meeting in Colorado Springs on their deliberative work. They are the only student group that has ever been asked to present at the conference. In 2010, the students and Carcasson designed another interactive process for the CASB conference, as the students ran a full session of the student strand at the conference, another first for an individual student group. The Poudre School District was awarded the 2011 Commissioner’s Choice Award for Engaging Students as Leaders by Governor Hickenlooper in 2011, in large part to the work of the PSD Think Tank. During the 2012-2013 year, the CPD and the Think Tank worked together to develop a process to engage middle school students on bullying issues. Individual Think Tank students also assisted with other CPD projects, such as the Loveland Connecting Seniors to your Community Process.

Students from the PSD Think Tank at the end of the CPD training workshop at CSU’s Tamasag Retreat Center in February, 2013

**Campus Forums** - The CPD also runs many forums on campus at CSU, both to expose students to deliberative forums and a different way of doing politics, and to provide CPD students with additional opportunities to hone their facilitation skills. During the 2012-2013
school year, the CPD ran forums in classes that totaled over 500 students. Topics during the year included poverty, energy issues, and domestic abuse.

**St. Vrain Valley School District Leadership St. Vrain Program** – Working with John Poynton, the Communication Director for the St. Vrain Valley School district, CPD Director Carcasson has assisted in the development of a formal training program designed to deepen their knowledge of district operations and exchange ideas with staff, board members and state education officials. The program was launched in 2009-2010, and is now working with its fifth cohort. In part due to the innovate public engagement efforts completed in collaboration with the CPD (including Leadership St. Vrain, the St. Vrain 2020 process from the summer of 2012, and the school safety forums completed in the spring of 2013), St. Vrain Valley superintendent Don Haddad was named the national superintendent of the year for 2012-2013 by the National Association of School Principals, and the St. Vrain Valley school board was named as the school board of the year by the Colorado Association of School Boards.

**Community workshops** – The CPD also provides free training to interested community members, and held another all day workshop for interested community members on April 6, 2013. Community members represented organizations such as the United Way, the Fort Collins Human Relations Commission, CSU, the Fort Collins Youth Advisory Board, Transition Fort Collins, First Presbyterian Church, Alternatives to Violence.
PART IV: CPD RESEARCH
As tenured or tenure-track faculty members at CSU, Drs. Carcasson and Knobloch also have research responsibilities, and their research is often focused on the work of the CPD or related deliberation topics. In 2012-2013, a number of articles and research reports were completed connected to the work of the CPD:


PART V: ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES BY CPD LEadership

Awards

CPD Associate Director Katie Knobloch 2013, Laura Crowell Dissertation award, Group Communication Division, National Communication Association, Washington, D.C.

CPD Associate Director Katie Knobloch received the IAP2 Core Values Research Award, with Profosser John Gastil for their evaluation of the 2010 Oregon Citizens’ Initiative Review
PART VI: A SPECIAL THANKS TO GRADUATING SENIORS

A bittersweet aspect of the CPD student associate program is that we must say goodbye to very special students at the end of every semester, as they graduate and move on to great things.
PART VII: CPD FUNDING
The CPD has received funding from a number of generous sources during its first seven years. A CSU College of Liberal Arts Academic Enhancement Program Grant was awarded in the spring of 2006 that provided funding for a course release, research assistant, and travel for Dr. Carcasson to originally develop Center for Public Deliberation. A grant from the Council of Public Policy Education provided $5,000 a year for the first three years (2006-2009). The CSU Department of Communication Studies matched that grant, providing an additional $5,000 a year of ongoing support. The department and the College of Liberal Arts also provide for Dr. Carcasson’s and Dr. Knobloch’s salaries, as well as in-kind support in the form of offices, web support, a storage area, and access to a copier and supplies.

The Bohemian Foundation through its Pharos Fund grant process has also been a very strong supporter of the CPD. In our seven years, we have received six separate grants from the Pharos Fund, totaling over $100,000. Pharos funding has made it possible for CPD staff and students to travel to deliberation conferences and workshops, to hire a graduate assistant, and to support more events and trainings.

The Kettering Foundation has also been critical to Dr. Carcasson’s own work and development, providing summer research funding, as well as providing the opportunity to interact with deliberation researchers and practitioners from across the country and globe.

We would like to express our deep thanks and appreciation to all these organizations for making the Center for Public Deliberation’s work possible.
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