



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

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## **BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH DELIBERATION: REFLECTIONS FROM STUDENT LEADERS**

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### **ABSTRACT:**

As polarization grows, structured dialogue helps students connect across differences and engage in civic life. At Sam Houston State University, the American Democracy Project's Deliberative Dialogue certification trains faculty and student moderators to lead respectful, curiosity-driven conversations. Integrated into freshman courses through interdivisional collaboration, the program expands access to civic education. This poster shares evaluation data and reflections, showing how student-led dialogue builds civic skills, confidence, and a stronger culture of engagement across campus.

### **THEMATIC FOCUS:**

**Blockage and Clearance: Physical, infrastructural, financial, or organizational barriers or portals to community engagement.**

**Convergence and Intersections: How increasing or decreasing hyperconnectivity can impact community engagement.**

### **BIO:**

Ian Tuttle is a student employee for the Center for Community Engagement at Sam Houston State University (SHSU). He is an undergraduate student in his senior year at SHSU pursuing his degree in Political Science. He is also the President of the student organization, Bearkats for Deliberative Dialogues at SHSU.

Houston, TX | March 26-28, 2026