

CSU Center for Public Deliberation Student Associate Program 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.**” It serves as an impartial resource for the northern Colorado community to assist in community problem-solving. We analyze issues, design public participation events, host forums that students facilitate, and write reports on key issues while working with a wide variety of local institutions, including city, county, and state government, school districts, and campus and community organizations. 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, and the CPD is dedicated to providing these three key ingredients to Northern Colorado.

Students accepted into the program earn upper level SPCM credits while acquiring a wide range of critical 21st century skills and experiences that will be applicable to many contexts, including facilitating collaborative problem-solving, issue analysis, convening, community organizing, meeting design, and reporting. Student associates are treated as colleagues and collaborators for the CPD, not simply as students. Students are involved in all aspects of the work, and have ample opportunities to take on significant responsibilities.

The CPD student associate program involves roughly 30-40 students. Each semester, 10-15 new students are brought into the program through an application process to begin the year long program, while 10-15 students who began previous semesters return as “Senior Student Associates.” New 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. Senior student associates can also return for additional semesters of credit (SPCM 486 counts as a general elective, and students can repeat 486 if they desire). In the fall of 2015, class time will be **Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30-4:45pm. All student associates will also be required to attend an all-day training workshop on Saturday, January 23, the first Saturday of the spring semester.** The first semester will focus on securing an understanding of the research and theory connected to community problem-solving, 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 and any subsequent semesters, 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.

In general, the CPD is **seeking students that are committed to improving how our community addresses tough problems** 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. 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. Since the CPD serves as an impartial resource, students must also feel comfortable serving a neutral role and not letting their own opinions and views dominate discussions.

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 being accepted now, and applicants will begin to be invited into the program on November 6 (**applications will still be accepted until the beginning of the spring semester**). Feel free to contact Martín Carcasson by email at cpd@colostate.edu. Applications can be returned to the CPD office in Behavioral Science A244, or the main Communication Studies office in Behavioral Science A203. You can also visit the CPD website at www.cpd.colostate.edu for more information.

CSU Center for Public Deliberation
Student Associate Application Spring 2016 – Fall 2016

(email Martín Carcasson at cpd@colostate.edu or visit www.cpd.colostate.edu for an electronic application if you would prefer to type your answers).

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 (Public Argumentation)*: _____

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poverty issues in Larimer County | <input type="checkbox"/> Fort Collins growth/development/sustainability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community networking and development | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental issues, including water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> K-12 issues, youth issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's issues, human trafficking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Issues tied to our aging community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Issues related to food politics and food systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Additional Relevant Experiences/Jobs/Memberships/Courses/Skills:

Statement of interest (required): On a separate page (please limit to 1-2 pages), please explain why you are interested in the Center and provide any additional relevant information concerning how you meet the requested criteria.

Recommendations from faculty or employers are not required, but will be considered.