# Constructive Dialogue Institute

# An Ecosystem Approach to Building Campus Dialogue Culture
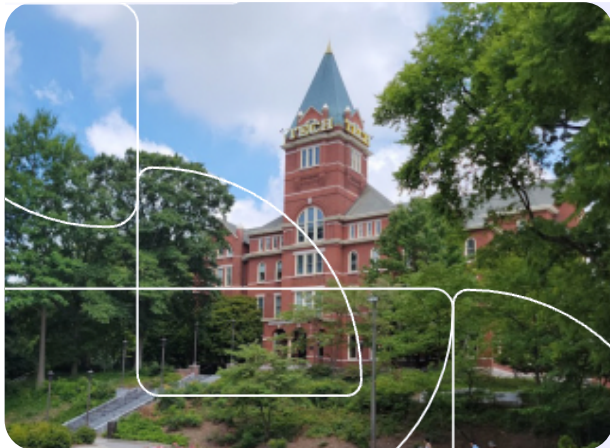
## A Blueprint for Campus Leaders

## Dialogue is not a one-off event—it's a cultural practice.

### What Is The Ecosystem Approach?

**A campus-wide strategy that embeds dialogue into everyday campus life.**

The goal is to create a robust campus culture that is:

- **Resilient:** Survives leadership turnover, campus conflicts, and budget changes
- **Interconnected:** Spans classrooms, governance, clubs, and community
- **Self-sustaining:** Fueled by relationships, skill building, and shared practices

CDI's research with 100+ campuses shows that lasting change happens when dialogue becomes a norm—woven into academics, leadership, and student life.

### Get More Information

**Download the full report:**
https://constructivedialogue.org/building-cultures-of-constructive-dialogue/

**Or Scan:**

To bring dialogue programs to your campus, contact partnerships@constructivedialogue.org
www.constructivedialogue.org

# Three Stages of Building a Dialogue Ecosystem

## See The System

**Map the Dialogue Landscape**
Identify where dialogue is already happening; courses, student orgs, residence halls, advising, and more.

**Connect the Dots**
Link these efforts to form a visible, reinforcing network of dialogue across campus.

**Engage Key Influencers**
Presidents, provosts, deans, faculty, and student affairs leaders set the tone, modeling dialogue is essential.

## Build With Intention

**Use Intentional Frameworks**
The ecosystem approach connects campus-wide efforts. Many institutions also draw from proven models:
- **Kettering Foundation's** Deliberative Democracy
- **Collective Impact Framework**
- **Vuslat Foundation's** Generous Listening

**Start Small. Scale Strategically.**
Pilots help test ideas, build momentum, and demonstrate value. Focus on:
- Voluntary participation
- Cross-functional stakeholders
- Peer engagement
- Clear goals and metrics

**Create Campus Connection Points**
Link first-year orientation dialogue to faculty seminars for long-term continuity.

## Fuel Long-Term Momentum

**Share Impact Stories**
Use real examples and outcomes to build awareness and support.

**Create Many Doorways In**
Offer diverse entry points—from informal events to structured programs.

**Assess and Strengthen the Network**
Track where your dialogue ecosystem is strong—and where it can grow.

## From Initiative To Identity
The goal isn't to generate surface-level activity, but to foster deep transformation.
When dialogue becomes part of campus culture, it moves from something you *do* to who you *are*.