Join a Different Conversation
ON YOUR CAMPUS

Community college faculty members across the country are working on transformational practices in and out of their classrooms. Through our work as a partner in the League for Innovation’s Faculty Voices Project, we’ve learned educators want more opportunities for honest conversations with each other and with administrators on important matters around student learning and the college experience.

Public engagement is an umbrella term that describes the activities by which people’s concerns, needs, interests and values are incorporated into decisions and actions on important matters and issues. Public engagement is (or can be) a way for people to achieve problem solving, civility, and community.

One of the core parts of Public Agenda’s mission is to foster a more informed and civil public discourse. To that end, we’re offering a way for you to participate in a conversation at your institution. By participating in this conversation, you will consider a range of views about how to foster an engaging campus community, and come up with some ideas about what actions you and your colleagues can take to make those ideas a reality.

Join us for a virtual event to discuss the issues that matter most on your campus. In partnership with the League for Innovation, our team has created #TextTalkEngage — a real-time, text-enabled, face-to-face conversation.

All you need to do is gather a few colleagues around a cellphone at any time and text “LEAGUE” to 89800. You’ll receive a series of text messages to guide you through a conversation on engaging faculty members.

#TextTalkEngage is meant to encourage dialogue that is personally meaningful and stimulate thinking about actions. It is part of a much larger conversation on faculty engagement.

We hope to hear your stories of how #TextTalkEngage started a conversation that inspired new thinking and action. Send your comments to pe@publicagenda.org or tweet a selfie of your group with #TextTalkEngage.
How the Process Works

- Participants form into groups of 3-4 people, text “LEAGUE” to 89800, and receive a welcome text, followed by dialogue and polling questions about the faculty. A question may include “How do you define ‘empty gesture’ opportunities and ‘real’ opportunities for engagement and providing input?”
- Each participant texts a response and receives a text with the next question.
- Participants also receive texts with links to real-time information on polling results.
- Responses to questions will be recorded anonymously. The League will provide twice annual updates on the findings.

Guidelines

- Listen with respect.
- It’s OK to disagree, but don’t make it personal.
- What’s said here stays here.

TextTalkEngage was made possible by Public Agenda in partnership with the League for Innovation in the Community College, through the League’s Faculty Voices Project.

The TextTalkEngage platform can be used in other settings as well. Working with our partner, ONEcount, our team can create a similar text-enabled engagement platform and customize questions specific to your needs. This is a great tool for public engagement on regional issues like transportation, housing and resiliency planning, and for issues that are statewide or national in scope.

For more information on incorporating this and other innovative engagement strategies in your work, contact Nicole Cabral at ncabral@publicagenda.org.