

UNIVERSITY NETWORK FOR COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE

ANCHORING OUR FUTURE: *How can collaborative governance meet the moment?*

- A national virtual gathering featuring research, practice, dialogue, and networking
- Join scholars, practitioners, and public leaders exploring collaborative governance in a rapidly changing world

National Virtual Conference 2026

DAY 1: OCTOBER 30, 2026

DAY 2: NOVEMBER 6, 2026

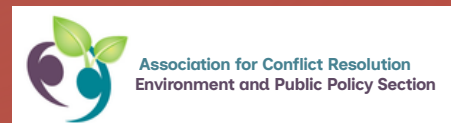
PACIFIC: 8:30 AM-2:00 PM

MOUNTAIN: 9:30 AM-3:00PM

CENTRAL: 10:30 AM-4:00 PM

EASTERN: 11:30 AM-5:00 PM

Schedule presented in Pacific Time



In partnership with:

National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation (NCDD)
Environment & Public Policy Section, Association for Conflict Resolution (ACR-EPP)
Conference Technical Host, Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution, Texas Law



DAY 1: OCTOBER 30, 2026

8:00 AM – 2:00 PM PACIFIC TIME

8:00–8:20	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS	FACILITATED BY UNCG CO-CHAIRS, MANUEL PADILLA AND POOJA BACHANI DI GIOVANNA
8:20–9:10	UNCG ROOTS AND SHOOTS	PRESENTED BY WENDY WILLIS AND BOB JONES
9:10–10:00	BEST PRACTICES FOR AI IN COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE: CHALLENGES AND ETHICAL DILEMMAS	PRESENTED BY ANA SOFIA CASTELLANOS, REBECCA MCLAIN, AND SARAH GILES
10:00–10:10	MINI-BREAK	
10:10–11:05	TED TALKS (17 MINS EACH: SEQUENTIAL)	1. FROM DATA TO DECISIONS: WHY DIALOGUE MATTERS PRESENTED BY OZLEM EDIZEL-TASCI 2. DEVIL’S RIVER WATERSHED PROJECT DIGITAL HUB PRESENTED BY ANNA JONES AND SARAH WINGFIELD 3. SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE PRESENTED BY SERGIO GUILLEN GRILLO
11:05–11:30	TED TALKS: BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSIONS	FACILITATED BY UNCG STEERING COMMITTEE AND UNCG CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
11:30–11:55	BREAK	
11:55–12:40	FACILITATED DIALOGUES (CHOOSE ONE)	OPTION A: COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE IN 21ST-CENTURY DEMOCRACY FACILITATED BY PALMA STRAND AND WENDY WILLIS OPTION B: AI AGENTS IN COLLABORATIVE STAKEHOLDER GROUPS FACILITATED BY JOHN STEPHENS
12:40–1:10	FLASH PRESENTATIONS (8 MINS EACH: SEQUENTIAL)	1. SYSTEMS THINKING IN DIALOGUE AND DELIBERATION PRESENTED BY ROB ALEXANDER 2. RESILIENCE FROM THE INSIDE OUT: ADAPTING RAFT TO BUILD INTERNAL CAPACITY WITH THE RAPPAHANNOCK TRIBE OF VIRGINIA PRESENTED BY IAN BAXTER 3. THE INTERSECTORAL SCHOOL OF GOVERNANCE BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG PRESENTED BY MONIKA GONSER
1:10–1:20	MINI-BREAK	
1:20–1:45	FLASH PRESENTATIONS: BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSIONS	FACILITATED BY UNCG STEERING COMMITTEE
1:45–2:15	BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSIONS	SELECT DISCUSSION TOPICS FOR SESSION TWO
2:15–2:30	DEBRIEF AND CLOSING	FACILITATED BY UNCG CO-CHAIRS, MANUEL PADILLA AND POOJA BACHANI DI GIOVANNA
2:30–3:15	SOCIAL HOUR (OPTIONAL)	



DAY 2: NOVEMBER 6, 2026

8:00 AM – 2:00 PM PACIFIC TIME

8:00–8:15	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS	FACILITATED BY MANUEL PADILLA AND POOJA BACHANI DI GIOVANNA
8:15–8:55	SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS	DISCUSSION TOPICS IDENTIFIED DURING SESSION ONE
8:55–9:10	GROUP DEBRIEF	FACILITATED BY UNCG CO-CHAIRS, MANUEL PADILLA AND POOJA BACHANI DI GIOVANNA
9:10–9:55	USING AI TO TEACH FACILITATION AND MEDIATION SKILLS ONLINE	PRESENTED BY JOHN STEPHENS
9:55–10:05	MINI-BREAK	
10:05–11:25	TED TALKS (17 MINS EACH: SEQUENTIAL)	GADGET: GOVERNANCE DIAGNOSIS VIA LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS PRESENTED BY TIMOTHY GIESEKE DEVIL'S RIVER WATERSHED STAKEHOLDER JURY PRESENTED BY DESIREE JACKSON AND CARRIE THOMPSON EASTERN OREGON CIVIC ASSETS PRESENTED BY PRABHAS POKHAREL YALE COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS PROGRAM PRESENTED BY MICHAEL KERN
11:25–11:50	BREAK	
11:50–12:20	TED TALKS : BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSION	FACILITATED BY UNCG STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS
12:20–1:05	FACILITATED DIALOGUES	OPTION A: WORKING WITH DESCENDANTS OF THE ENSLAVED AND THEIR COMMUNITIES FACILITATED BY FRANK DUKES, SELENA COZART, AND DESCENDANTS OF THE ENSLAVED OPTION B: ADAPTING TO CHANGING NEEDS IN REPORTING AND OTHER DELIVERABLES FACILITATED BY ASTREA STRAWN
1:05–1:45	MEMBERSHIP MEETING (OPEN TO ALL)	FACILITATED BY UNCG CO-CHAIRS MANUEL PADILLA AND POOJA BACHANI DI GIOVANNA
1:45–2:00	DEBRIEF AND CLOSING	FACILITATED BY UNCG CO-CHAIRS MANUEL PADILLA AND POOJA BACHANI DI GIOVANNA
2:00–3:00	SOCIAL HOUR (OPTIONAL)	

UNIVERSITY NETWORK FOR COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE

PRESENTERS DAY 1		
	ALEXANDER, ROB	PH.D., PROFESSOR, JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY
	BACHANI DI GIOVANNA, POOJA	UNCG CO-CHAIR, PH.D STUDENT IN ENGLISH LITERATURE, UNIVERSITY OF TULSA
	BAXTER, IAN	SENIOR ASSOCIATE, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA WELDON COOPER CENTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE, INSTITUTE FOR ENGAGEMENT & NEGOTIATION
	COSTELLANOS, ANNA SOPHIA	PROJECT MANAGER, NATIONAL POLICY CONSENSUS CENTER, PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY
	EDIZEEL-TASCI, OZLEM	PH.D., SENIOR ASSOCIATE, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA WELDON COOPER CENTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE, INSTITUTE FOR ENGAGEMENT & NEGOTIATION
	GILES, SARAH	SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER, OREGON'S KITCHEN TABLE, NATIONAL POLICY CONSENSUS CENTER, PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY
	GONSER, MONIKA	PROFESSOR, DOCTOR, INTERSECTORAL SCHOOL OF GOVERNANCE BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG
	GUILLEN GRILLO, SERGIO	PH.D., ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGINEERING AND SOCIETY, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
	JONES, ANNA	DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, SCIENCE COMMUNICATIONS, THE MEADOWS CENTER FOR WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT, TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY
	JONES, BOB	JD., DIRECTOR, FLORIDA CONFLICT RESOLUTION CONSORTIUM (FCRC) CONSENSUS CENTER, FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
	MCLAIN, REBECCA	PH.D., RESEARCH PROGRAM DIRECTOR, NATIONAL POLICY CONSENSUS CENTER, PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY
	PADILLA, MANUEL	UNCG CO-CHAIR, SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER, PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY
	STEPHENS, JOHN	PH.D., ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, UNC-CHAPEL HILL SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT
	STRAND, PALMA	JD, LL.M, PROFESSOR EMERITA, CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY/CIVITY
	WILLIS, WENDY	JD., DIRECTOR, OREGON'S KITCHEN TABLE, NATIONAL POLICY CONSENSUS CENTER, PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY
	WINGFIELD, SARAH	DIGITAL MEDIA SPECIALIST, THE MEADOWS CENTER FOR WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT, TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESENTERS DAY 2		
	BACHANI DI GIOVANNA, POOJA	UNCG CO-CHAIR, PH.D ENGLISH LITERATURE, UNIVERSITY OF TULSA
	COZART, SELENA	PH.D., SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT AND PROJECT CONSULTANT, INSTITUTE FOR ENGAGEMENT & NEGOTATION
	DUKES, FRANK	PH.D., SENIOR SCHOLAR, INSTITUTE FOR ENGAGEMENT & NEGOTATION
	GIESEKE, TIMOTHY	PRESIDENT, AG RESOURCE STRATEGIES, LLC
	JACKSON, DESIREE	SCIENCE & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST, THE MEADOWS CENTER FOR WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT, TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY
	KERN, MICHAEL	PROFESSOR IN THE PRACTICE OF COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS, YALE SCHOOL OF THE ENVIRONMENT
	PADILLA, MANUEL	UNCG CO-CHAIR, SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER, PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY
	POKHAREL, PRABHAS	PH.D. STUDENT, GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT, NATIONAL POLICY CONSENSUS CENTER, PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY
	STEPHENS, JOHN	PH.D., ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, UNC-CHAPEL HILL SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT
	STRAND, PALMA	JD., LL.M, PROFESSOR EMERITA, CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY/CIVITY
	STRAWN, ASTREA	BIOLOGIST, FACILITATOR/MEDIATOR, WEST COAST AQUATIC, BRITISH COLUMBIA
	THOMPSON, CARRIE	DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, THE MEADOWS CENTER FOR WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT, TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY
	WILLIS, WENDY	JD., DIRECTOR, OREGON'S KITCHEN TABLE, NATIONAL POLICY CONSENSUS CENTER, PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

UNCG STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

AMSLER, TERRY	UNCG TREASURER AND ADJUNCT LECTURER, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON, PROGRAM DIRECTOR EMERITUS OF THE INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM
ARMSTRONG, MELANIE	PH.D., ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, HAUB SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIRECTOR OF THE RUCKELSHAUS INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
BACHANI DI GIOVANNA, POOJA	UNCG CO-CHAIR, PH.D STUDENT IN ENGLISH LITERATURE, UNIVERSITY OF TULSA
DENCKLA COBB, TANYA	CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CHAIR AND DIRECTOR, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA WELDON COOPER CENTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE, INSTITUTE FOR ENGAGEMENT & NEGOTIATION
FOSTER, MEGAN	PROGRAM DIRECTOR, RESEARCH SCIENTIST, UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO
KATCHER, JORDAN	LEAD FACILITATOR OF THE UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENTAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAM
LEWIS, LINCOLN	PH.D. STUDENT IN THE CONSTRUCTED ENVIRONMENT, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
PADILLA, MANUEL	UNCG CO-CHAIR, SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER, PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY
PAGE, CHRIS	DIRECTOR OF PROJECTS AT THE RUCKELSHAUS CENTER
PALIHAPITIYA, MADHAWA	UNCG SECRETARY AND CO-CONVENER, THE TRUST NETWORK, EARLY WARNING CONSULTANT, HARVARD UNIVERSITY, ADJUNCT FACULTY INSTRUCTOR, UMASS BOSTON
THOMPSON, CARRIE	DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, THE MEADOWS CENTER FOR WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT
TURNER, DAMON ISIAH	PROJECT CONSULTANT, NATIONAL POLICY CONSENSUS CENTER AT PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY
	ELECTIONS FOR NEW STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL BE HELD, AND NEW STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL ATTEND THEIR FIRST MEETING AT THE OCTOBER 13 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

UNCG CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

ADDOR, MARY LOU	PH.D., EMERITA, NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY AND LIAISON WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC POLICY SECTION, ASSOCIATION FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION (EPP-ACR)
ALEXANDER, ROB	PH.D., PROFESSOR, JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY
DENCKLA COBB, TANYA	COMMITTEE CHAIR AND DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE FOR ENGAGEMENT & NEGOTIATION
HUMMEL, KEIVA	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL COALITION FOR DIALOUGE AND DELIBERATION
SCHOOLER, LARRY	PH.D., ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PRACTICE, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
WILBURN, HAZEL	PROJECT SPECIALIST, THE WILLIAMS D. RUCKELSHAUS CENTER, WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

UNCG SECRETARIAT

CARBONI, JULIA	PH.D., UNCG SECRETARIAT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WILLIAM D. RUCKELSHAUS CENTER
WILBURN, HAZEL	UNCG SECRETARIAT AND PROJECT SPECIALIST, WILLIAM D. RUCKELSHAUS CENTER

CONFERENCE TECHNICAL HOST

READ, VICKI	CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY DISPUTE RESOLUTION, TEXAS LAW
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REGISTER HERE!



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