

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NJCH announces new “Democracy Conversation Project” initiative

(Camden, NJ) – The New Jersey Council for the Humanities is proud to announce its new program, the *Democracy Conversation Project*. Funded through the “Why it Matters: Civic and Electoral Participation” initiative, the *Democracy Conversation Project* (DCP) is a public humanities program designed to foster discussions among New Jersey communities about civic life and democracy in America. In these upcoming online events, participants can explore what democracy means, what opportunities are available and what challenges exist for nonprofits wishing to engage with civic life, and how NJCH can best support the cultural infrastructure of the state in the coming years as we all strive to enact and improve upon the society envisioned in the founding of the United States.

Eight New Jersey colleges will host two-part discussions throughout March and April.

Title	Hosting College	Part 1, Date & Time
When Community Becomes the Classroom, Everyone Wins	Raritan Valley Community College	Tuesday, March 16 2:30-4:00 pm
Youth, Power, and Policy	Atlantic Cape Community College	Wednesday, March 24 5:30-7:00 pm
Voting: From Suppression to Expression	Brookdale Community College	Friday, March 26 10-11:30 am
Who Votes in a Democracy?	Union County College	Tuesday, March 30 3:00-4:30 pm
Democracy, Ethics, and Leadership	Sussex County Community College	Wednesday, April 7 3-4:30 pm
Demographics and Disinformation	Middlesex County College	Tuesday, April 13 10am – 12pm
One Nation Under God...Divisible?	Camden County College	Wednesday, April 21 6:30 - 8pm
Promoting the Understanding and Value of Democracy in 2021	County College of Morris	Thursday, April 29 3-4:30 pm

These online discussions will be held among scholars, students, and community members. The DCP will also feature “In the Weeds,” (ITW) a signature NJCH follow-up series of events. “In the Weeds” will be hosted exactly one week after each initial conversation at noon. ITW is designed to ensure that event participants have the opportunity to explore and consider both big picture concepts and real-life application.

“We are grateful for support for the *Democracy Conversation Project* from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation,” said Executive Director Carin Berkowitz. “We are all responsible for our democratic institutions, and we all have a role to play in our electoral process and in governance. NJCH is committed to working with community-minded groups that want to strengthen our democracy for all New Jerseyans. The Council is proud to partner with the eight county colleges participating in this initiative and with the New Jersey Council of County Colleges to launch this program, as it will create meaningful opportunities for dialogue and exchange.”

DCP is administered by the Federation of State Humanities Councils and funded by Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. More information NJCH programming can be found at njhumanities.org.

About the New Jersey Council for the Humanities

The New Jersey Council for the Humanities is a nonprofit state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. NJCH harnesses the power of the humanities to strengthen our pluralistic society. We envision a New Jersey that delights in diversity, appreciates that there are no easy answers, and finds joy and understanding in the humanities. We work statewide with cultural and community organizations to bring dynamic programming to the local level.

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