2025-26 COMMUNITY UPDATE

LEADING WITH COMMUNITY

HARVARD
Community and Campus Life

“Sustaining our academic excellence and nurturing our campus culture are not separate goals—they are profoundly and mutually reinforcing.”

— Alan M. Garber
President, Harvard University

From the Chief Community and Campus Life Officer



Harvard's **dedication** to the pursuit of excellence in teaching, learning, and research cannot be separated from the health of the community that sustains it. We do our best work, and our most enduring work, when every person on this campus can fully participate in the opportunities the University has to **learn, discover, and achieve**. Each year, this report offers us a chance to pause and ask what it truly means to build a healthy, connected campus culture, one that is capacious and resilient enough to hold our differences.

Last year's theme, Leading with Community, asked us to consider how our daily choices, **individually and collectively,** shape a campus where every person is seen, heard, and able to contribute. The initiatives described in the following pages reflect the collective impact of Harvard's community and culture ecosystem: a network of programs, partnerships, and people committed to this work across every school and unit.

A few highlights from the year: The President's Building Bridges Fund received three times as many applications and funded twice as many projects as it did the year before; clear evidence that students' interest in engaging across difference continues to grow. Nearly 1,000 members of our community gathered both online and in person for the annual Community and Campus Life (CCL) Forum, and nearly 900 attended the Welcome Block Party, convenings that reminded us how much we value learning in community with one another. Meanwhile, students, faculty, and staff across the University worked to strengthen the infrastructure that makes full participation in University life possible.

Across the schools, this commitment took many forms: a faculty seminar on antisemitism at Harvard Business School, a Truth and Reconciliation conference at Harvard Divinity School, a Civil Society at the Cinema series at Harvard Kennedy School, and a Civil Discourse initiative welcoming new graduate students at the Harvard Kenneth C. Griffin Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Different in methods but united in purpose, each of these local initiatives gave community members opportunities to practice Harvard's Community Values. Together, these efforts demonstrate that fostering a healthy campus community is not separate from Harvard's mission but essential to it: our University cannot advance knowledge unless its members feel the sense of belonging needed to pursue it. As President Garber reminded us at the CCL Forum, "We are building an environment where every member of the University feels they belong, and where full participation is not left to chance or circumstance."

I am grateful to our many partners across the University whose leadership helps build a Harvard where everyone can thrive. The work continues, and I look forward to advancing it together.

In community,

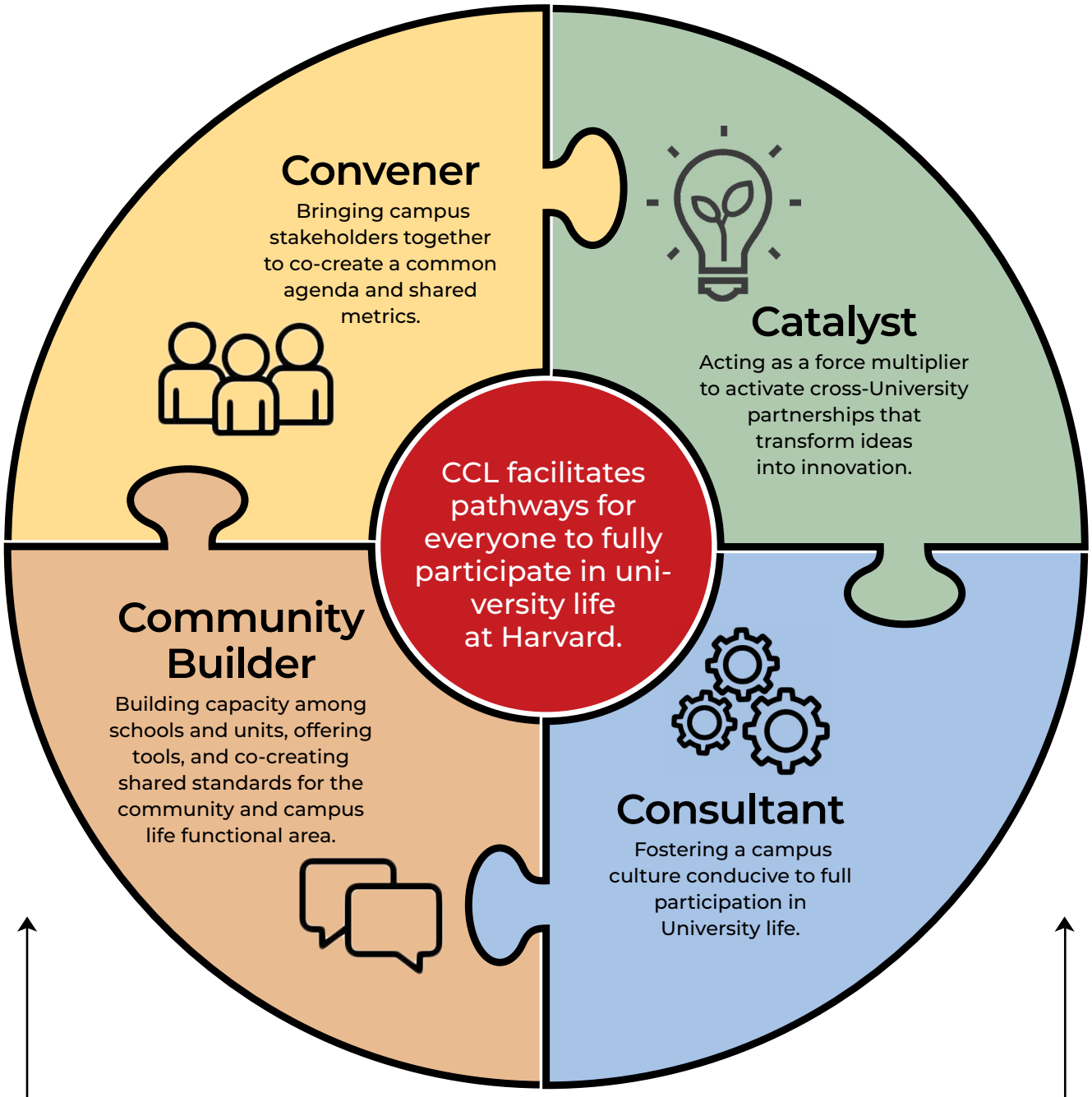
Sherri Ann Charleston

Sherri Ann Charleston, JD, PhD

Community **Impact**

Academic Year 2025-26 | **By the Numbers**

Community and Campus Life (CCL) serves as the backbone organization for the ecosystem of offices that support Harvard's community and culture work. We coordinate and support the collective efforts of this University-wide network of schools, units, and stakeholders whose work collectively creates conditions in which each individual has the opportunity to fully participate in all Harvard offers to learn, discover, and achieve.



HARVARD COLLEGE AND GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS

TEACHING HOSPITALS

STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF, POST-DOCS & RESEARCHERS

RESEARCH CENTERS

LIBRARIES & MUSEUM

PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

Convener

Community and Campus Life Network Members **145**

42 Student Leadership Council Members

176 Accessibility Ambassadors and Student Accessibility Advisory Group Members

Catalyst

Welcome Event Resource Fair Partners **13**

56 Harvard Culture Lab Grants

University-wide Committees with CCL Representation **8**

9 President's Building Bridges Fund Awardees

Community Builder

Program Participants **1,942**

40 CCL Programs and Services

Newsletter Subscribers **17,850**

20,000+ Web Visits Monthly

Consultant

1,177 Disability Consultations

American Sign Language Interpretation Requests **438**

300+ Community Presentations

LEADING WITH VALUES

Harvard's values are the foundation of a thriving community—one in which authentic connections flourish and result in true excellence in teaching, learning, and research. Shared leadership and cross-Harvard collaborations are the beacons that lead the way to a more vibrant community, aligning values with everyday actions. At Community and Campus Life (CCL), that work takes shape in University-wide committees, in consultations and trainings that advance accessibility, and in conversations with students, faculty, postdocs, and staff leaders. Across Harvard, CCL initiatives and cross-University leadership collaborations support an environment where community connections can thrive.

Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Lecture at Harvard

The University-wide Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Lecture brings the community together in remembrance of Dr. King's legacy at Harvard and honors an individual who advances the cause that Dr. King championed. On October 27, 2025, the fourth annual lecture celebrated the lifelong achievements of philanthropist Darren Walker, who served as president of the Ford Foundation from 2013–2025. Walker's work at the Ford Foundation focused on addressing structural issues that compound inequality.



Following his address, Darren Walker (right) conversed with Tomiko Brown-Nagin, dean of the Harvard Radcliffe Institute.

After his remarks, Walker was joined on stage by Tomiko Brown-Nagin, dean of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, for a thoughtful discussion centering questions from community members. Attendees included local community members as well as members of the Harvard community. Guests were treated to entertainment by vocalists Jaylon Sherrell, HBS doctoral student, and Carolyn Yujie Hao, Harvard College '26.

More than 500 individuals attended. Post-event survey responses were overwhelmingly positive, with participants expressing deep appreciation for the honoree and the lecture's themes of hope and justice.

President's Building Bridges Fund

The President's Building Bridges Fund (PBBF) invests in projects that create opportunities for dialogue, learning, and connection across differences, as part of Harvard's commitment to fostering a more connected community.

Now in its second year, the fund supported eight projects and saw significant growth in participation, with triple the number of applications submitted and double the number of projects funded. The momentum of the program is reflective of a growing interest in strengthening campus connections and opportunities for community members to lead the way in bridging differences and building more understanding across difference.

"Our students continue to show that building community across difference is not an abstract aspiration but a daily practice they are eager to pursue," said Sherri Ann Charleston, chief community and campus life officer.

Learn more about all this year's PBBF projects in the Harvard Gazette and see the spotlight on the Harvard Rurality Forum on page 5.



Attendees at the CCL Leadership Summit in March participate in a Design Thinking workshop led by Srikant M. Datar, dean of Harvard Business School.

Community and Campus Life Leadership Summit

The annual Community and Campus Life Leadership Summit facilitates continuous communication and collaboration among University leadership on shared priorities and invites leaders to help shape the University agenda. The Summit shares progress on organizational changes and is an opportunity for leaders to hone their own skills in dialogue across difference. The March 2026 Summit featured a conversation on cultivating a culture of pluralism with Laurie Patton, president of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; and Danielle Allen, James Bryant Conant University Professor; moderated by Marla Frederick, dean of Harvard Divinity School.

Building Infrastructure Across Campuses

CCL convenes and leads several cross-University bodies that anchor community and campus life work including the Community Life Officers' Council. The Community Life Officers' Council brings together representatives from schools and units across the University and is chaired by Sherri Ann Charleston, chief community and campus life officer. The Council advances a collective impact approach to upholding Harvard's Community Values, with a particular focus on how we build a vibrant and respectful culture. By fostering a collaborative infrastructure, CCL can share and amplify what works on one campus, allowing others to adapt these ideas to meet their local needs.

Harvard Rurality Forum

Exploring the Urban-Rural Divide



Members of the Harvard Undergraduate Rural League's executive board. From left, Kevin Scanlan, Katie Kinnion, Justin Black, Sophie Pearo, Lizzie Place, Avani Rai, Elizabeth Pollard, and Luke Blanchette (all members of the class of '27).

In April, the Harvard Undergraduate Rural League, with funding from the President's Building Bridges Fund, organized the first Harvard Rurality Forum. The Forum brought together leading voices from across policy, academia, and practice for a day of reflection on rural life in America. There were expert panels on education, medicine, and economic development, in addition to keynote addresses and open networking.

To learn more, visit the Harvard Undergraduate Rural League website.

LEADING ACROSS DIFFERENCE

Harvard creates opportunities for people with different identities, backgrounds, and viewpoints to engage constructively. We pursue excellence by coming together in community, and supporting innovative ways to develop, test, and scale ideas that strengthen connections. By learning from experience and sharing practices that work, we help good ideas travel and take root.

Forum: Coming Together Across Campus and Across Difference

In March, CCL hosted its annual forum, bringing together students, staff, faculty, researchers, and alumni from almost every Harvard school. Nearly 1,000 registrants joined together—both online and in person—to listen, develop skills, and brainstorm strategies that support full participation and collaboration. This year's theme focused on "Leading with Community." Keynote sessions featured Professor Julia Minson who spoke on how to disagree better, and Professor Michèle Lamont on how recognition can heal divides. A panel of University leaders reflected on how data from the Pulse Survey on Inclusion and Belonging, and the Healthy Minds Survey can inform this work. Breakout sessions invited participants to practice hard conversations in the classroom, align organizational strategies around shared values, explore the mattering initiative, and expand accessibility. The Forum reinforced Harvard's commitment to values-driven leadership, community building, and respectful discourse.

Accessibility at Harvard

CCL's University Disability Resources (UDR) team works campus-wide to ensure that students, faculty, researchers, staff, and visitors with disabilities have an equal opportunity to access Harvard's learning and working environments. As the University's central resource on disability access and inclusion, UDR provides expertise and guidance to ensure community members with disabilities have an equal opportunity to participate in Harvard's programs and activities. These experts support initiatives including:

- **Unanticipated Accommodations Related Expense Fund:** This fund supplements local resources to ensure that local funding limitations are not a barrier. Examples include funding accommodations for American Sign Language (ASL) interpreting or accessible transportation for University programs.
- **Instructional Accessibility Resources:** UDR and partners received a Presidential Administrative Innovation Fund grant to create an online compilation of resources that help instructional staff enhance disability access and inclusion across learning environments. This project will centralize tools and guidance so faculty and teaching staff can more easily design courses where all students can participate fully in dialogue and learning.

Harvard Culture Lab Innovation Fund

Thanks to the generosity of William F. Lee '72, the Harvard Culture Lab Innovation Fund (CLIF) was able to award $50,350 to four projects, including one scaling grant. This year's recipients include:



Julia Minson, professor of public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School and a behavioral scientist, helps the audience develop practical strategies for dealing with diverse views. Her book, *How to Disagree Better*, was released in March and informed her presentation.

- **Deep Listening**, a workshop series led by Harvard Divinity School students;
- **Disability Representation at Harvard,** a new stock photo library featuring Harvard students, faculty, and staff with both apparent and non-apparent disabilities, along with allies;
- **Home and Away:** *Mapping Belonging at Harvard*, an interactive art exhibit in Harvard Yard highlighting international and immigrant-background students; and
- **Second-year scaling grant** funding for the Faith and Community Seminar. Scaling projects are paired with relevant offices; in this case, the seminar is supported by the Presidential Initiative on Interfaith Engagement.

To learn more about the 2025-26 CLIF projects, visit the **Harvard Gazette.**

CLIF Express Grants

CCL allocates $30,000 to CLIF Express Grants, offering micro-grants (of less than $1,500 each) for community-led projects that foster dialogue and solidarity. 77 applications were reviewed, and 52 projects were funded. **Interfaith**, which hosted a public gallery at Gato Rojo Café to highlight lived religious and spiritual experiences through photo-voice methodology, sparking empathy and conversation;

- **Stronger Together**, which equipped Harvard Graduate School of Education students with tangible strategies for teaching about cross-community solidarity and understanding issues such as antisemitism and racism.

Disability Pride Month Celebration

In July 2025, CCL's UDR team hosted Harvard's fourth annual Disability Pride Month celebration. In direct response to requests for more accessible, virtual engagement opportunities, UDR shifted to an online format this year. The event provided space for storytelling, connection, and visibility for Harvard's disabled community members.

Many attendees expressed gratitude that the virtual format allowed them to participate for the first time.

Deep Listening Workshop Series

Redefining what belonging can feel like on campus

The Deep Listening Workshop Series, led by Harvard Divinity School students Paula Ortiz, MDiv '26, and Lia Pikus, MTS '27, and hosted under Harvard's Human Flourishing Program, was a yearlong pilot open to the entire University community. The series included six immersive workshops exploring listening as a pedagogical and relational practice. Funded by a Culture Lab Innovation Fund Grant, the goal of the workshops was to develop habits and skills focused on attention, curiosity, and openness so participants could engage with differences more compassionately and creatively. Marshall Ganz, the Rita E. Hauser Senior Lecturer in Leadership, Organizing, and Civil Society at Harvard Kennedy School, was one member of faculty who led a workshop as part of the cross-campus series.

To learn more, visit the Harvard Divinity School website.



A Deep Listening workshop

LEADING TOGETHER

The ways in which we create opportunities for participation and connection across Harvard are the true measure of how we value respect and inclusivity. Across schools and units, faculty, staff, students, and researchers are working together to ensure that Harvard is a place where everyone has the opportunity to participate fully.

Connecting New Community Members to Resources—and Each Other

In August, CCL's Welcome Block Party created informal space for new and returning community members to meet, talk, and celebrate together. Held on the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) campus, nearly 900 attendees visited information tables representing over a dozen offices and campus organizations. Staff representatives from each office and organization answered questions and provided references and resources to help new community members navigate Harvard and find needed supports.

After the community resource fair, attendees enjoyed local food, lawn games, crafts, and music to spark new friendships and foster connection. A post-event survey found that 80% of attendees felt their participation enhanced their sense of belonging, and 74% of respondents said they learned about useful resources.

Sharing Resources, Supporting Community Members

CCL convenes groups from across Harvard to listen to community concerns and work collaboratively to create opportunities for connection and growth. The Community and Campus Life Network and the Community Life Student Leadership Council, Local Disability Coordinators, and the Student Accessibility Advisory Group meet regularly to share best practices, elevate concerns, and coordinate initiatives that foster respectful dialogue and belonging on campus.

Meeting each community where they are, while rooting all CCL work in shared values, creates a more coherent campus experience where dialogue, belonging, and full participation are everyone's responsibility.



ABOVE: Attendees at CCL's Harvard-wide Welcome Block Party get information from the Campus Services and University Dining Services tables. Nearly 900 community members attended the event and visited the information tables.

Community & Campus Life Network

The Community and Campus Life Network is a collaborative forum for colleagues across Harvard who are committed to fostering belonging, dialogue, and connection. Members coordinate community-building initiatives, identify opportunities for cross-school collaboration, and engage in professional development to strengthen their capacity to support inclusive, pluralistic campus environments.

Community Student Leadership Council

The Community Student Leadership Council convenes 42 student leaders from all Harvard schools during the academic year. Through monthly meetings and leadership development sessions, students surface emerging community concerns and

codesign solutions. This year, Council dialogue highlighted isolation and loneliness as major challenges to student success. In response, the Council held a student social during the annual Forum in March, which created a new space for students to connect across schools and identities.

University Committee Service

CCL staff contribute to University-wide decision-making and policy development through sustained service on key committees, including: the University Accessibility Committee, Wellbeing Committee, Public Art Advisory Committee, Reimagining Campus Safety, Harvard University Police Department Advisory Board, Harvard Human Resources (HHR) Office for Work/Life Champions Group, HHR Policy Committee, Recruitment Advisory Council, Talent Acquisition AI Working Group. Their participation helps ensure that questions of belonging, access, and community wellbeing are woven into core institutional decisions.



Community members in discussion at the end-of-year Community and Campus Life Network meeting

Community Life Offices

HARVARD COLLEGE
Office of Culture and Community

HARVARD JOHN A. PAULSON SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES
Office for Belonging, Engagement, and Community

HARVARD KENNETH C. GRIFFIN GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Office of Culture, Community, and Engagement

HARVARD DIVISION OF CONTINUING EDUCATION
Office of Community and Belonging

HARVARD FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Office for Academic Culture and Community

HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL
Office for Community and Culture

HARVARD SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE
Office of Student Affairs, Community & Campus Life

HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DESIGN
Office of Community, Impact, and Opportunity

HARVARD DIVINITY SCHOOL
Office for Community and Belonging

HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
Office of Student Affairs

HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL
Office of Belonging, Community, and Connection

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL
Dean of Students and Office of Community Engagement, Equity, and Belonging

HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
Office for Culture and Community Engagement

HARVARD T.H. CHAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Office for Community and Belonging

RADCLIFFE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY
Inclusion and Belonging Committee

ACROSS SCHOOLS **ALIGNED FOR IMPACT**

This section contains highlights of community-building efforts at each school. Visit ccl.harvard.edu for additional initiatives.

Harvard College
Global Engagement and Academic Impact Initiative

The Harvard Foundation's Global Engagement and Academic Impact Initiative advances academic excellence, pluralism, and global engagement by connecting students with opportunities for collaborative learning, leadership development, and applied research. Through interdisciplinary programs and experiential learning, the initiative prepares students to bridge academic inquiry and policy engagement while addressing complex global challenges. A standout example this year was the Harvard Foundation's delegation to the 70th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, where participants engaged with policymakers, United Nations representatives, and civil society leaders, gaining firsthand experience in international diplomacy while strengthening their leadership skills and global perspective.

Harvard Division of Continuing Education (DCE)
Expanding Access for 50 Years

DCE and Harvard Extension School (HES) have long been leaders in expanding access to education through innovation and technology. In 2025, DCE celebrated its 50th anniversary, reflecting a legacy that stretches back more than a century, when Harvard began pioneering



SEAS hosted the 2026 AI Alignment Panel and engaged participants in vibrant discussion. Panelists included (from right) Smitha Milli, research scientist at Meta Superintelligence Labs; Flavio du Pin Calmon, associate professor of electrical engineering at SEAS; Bailey Flanigan, assistant professor of political science and computer science at MIT; Boaz Barak, professor of computer science at SEAS; and Ariel Procaccia (moderator), professor of computer science at SEAS.

new ways to engage and support learners across their educational journey—with courses for high school students via Harvard Summer School, for adult learners via Harvard Extension School, for working professionals in the Professional & Executive Development Program, and with the Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement. Throughout 2025, Nancy J. Coleman, dean of Harvard DCE, led events recognizing the achievements of DCE students, staff, faculty, and alumni and reflecting on the myriad of ways DCE has expanded access to Harvard for learners around the world and positively impacted the lives of hundreds of thousands of individuals and their communities.



Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS)
Dean's Dialogue: Reimagining AI Alignment

In spring, SEAS hosted a Dean's Dialogue exploring one of today's most pressing questions: How can artificial intelligence be designed to reflect human values while respecting diverse perspectives? Bringing together leading researchers with differing views on AI alignment, the panel examined the technical, ethical, and societal tradeoffs among safety, personalization, and pluralism. By modeling thoughtful engagement across disagreement, the discussion helped participants better understand the complexity of designing AI systems that are both responsible and inclusive, and helping members of the Harvard community to respect, relate, and cooperate across differences.

Harvard Kenneth C. Griffin Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS)
Civil Discourse Initiative

GSAS launched a Civil Discourse initiative to help incoming students engage thoughtfully across differences and build a stronger academic community from the start of their Harvard experience. Through orientation programming and pre-arrival learning materials—including a video introduction and a reading from *Thanks for the Feedback* by Harvard Law School faculty member Sheila Heen—students explored the role of curiosity, empathy, respect, and intellectual courage in navigating feedback and difficult conversations. The initiative culminated in an interactive session during How to Harvard Day, where students practiced these skills and connected with peers across disciplines. Supporting students from more than 57 graduate programs, the initiative reinforced Harvard's commitment to respectful engagement, inclusive dialogue, and the shared learning that strengthens community across diverse perspectives.

Harvard Business School (HBS)
Faculty Seminar on Antisemitism and the Classroom

In partnership with the HBS Working Together Steering Committee, Harvard Business School's Office for Community and Culture convened a faculty seminar on antisemitism attended by more than 100 faculty members. The program explored the historical intersections of antisemitism and capitalism and featured a panel discussion with Rabbi Marc Baker of Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston and Rabbi Jason Rubenstein of Harvard Hillel on the ways contemporary antisemitism can shape classroom dynamics and learning environments. By creating space for informed discussion and shared understanding, the seminar equipped faculty to engage thoughtfully with complex issues affecting their students and classrooms. HBS plans to continue the series annually, reinforcing its commitment to fostering respectful dialogue, continuous learning, and a culture where all members of the community can thrive.

Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD)
The Science of Revenge: Understanding the World's Deadliest Addiction and How to Overcome It

GSD's Community Conversation series welcomed Yale researcher and psychiatry lecturer James Kimmel, Jr., to explore the neuroscience and psychology of revenge and its impact on individuals and society. Bringing



together students, faculty, and staff from across the School, the discussion examined how retaliation and "cancel culture" can hinder meaningful engagement and offered evidence-based strategies for forgiveness, reflection, and connection. By creating space for candid conversation on a complex topic, the program helped participants better understand why engaging across difference can feel challenging while reinforcing the importance of empathy and respectful dialogue in building community.

Harvard Divinity School (HDS)
Conference on Truth and Reconciliation Experiences in the U.S.

The HDS Office for Community and Belonging, in collaboration with the HDS Truth and Healing Commission Steering Committee composed of faculty, students, staff, and alumni, convened the Harvard Divinity School Conference on Truth and Reconciliation Experiences in the U.S. The conference brought together approximately 100 participants from Harvard and beyond to explore how communities confront historical harm through truth-telling, dialogue, and healing. Featuring leaders from the Greensboro and Maine-Wabanaki Truth and Reconciliation Commissions, the conference served as the public launch of the development of HDS's Truth and Healing Commission and highlighted approaches to accountability, repair, and reconciliation across differences. By engaging students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners in these conversations through a restorative, heart-centered approach, the event reinforced HDS's commitment to fostering constructive dialogue and building a more just and connected community and world. This work builds on but is not limited to the recommendations of the Report of the Presidential Committee on Harvard & the Legacy of Slavery.

Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE)
An Evening with Michael Sandel Exploring "The Tyranny of Merit"

HGSE's Askwith Education Forum "An Evening with Michael Sandel" urged attendees to consider "the tyranny of merit" on higher education. Political philosopher and lecturer Michael Sandel and HGSE Dean Nonie Lesaux explored how meritocracy shapes our education system and its impact on fairness and opportunity. Sandel explored topics from the country's current political divide to the erosion of American civic life. Sandel advocated for more public meeting spaces where people from all backgrounds can co-exist, as well as an education system which prioritizes the common good over exclusivity and competition. Attendees at the forum were able to engage with the speaker during a moderated questions-and-answers period at the event's close. Now in its 28th year, the forum is an opportunity for community conversation and connection and contributes to the Graduate School of Education's commitment to promoting dialogue across differences.



Honoring of ancestors and consecration of the space by Africana and Indigenous ceremony leaders. Left: Tracey E. Hucks, Victor S. Thomas Professor of Africana Religious Studies, Harvard Divinity School; Suzanne Young Murray Professor, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. Right: Kabl Wilkerson, enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation (Bourassa & Muller families; Bear Clan) doctoral candidate, History Department, Harvard University.

Harvard Kennedy School (HKS)
Civil Society at the Cinema

The HKS Civil Society at the Cinema is a film-and-discussion series that uses artistic experiences to strengthen civic culture and empathy at the University. Screenings were held in a neutral, non-classroom setting and invited students, faculty, and community members to enjoy a film followed by structured conversations about the difficult issues the film raised. Co-moderated roundtables led by students and faculty helped introduce complex contemporary problems, surface shared concerns, and model respectful, curiosity-driven dialogue focused on listening and speaking across discomfort. Attendees noted that the events "opened up the room" for genuine dialogue and voiced strong interest in similar opportunities. The project is a model of a scalable way to spark honest conversation on polarizing topics, showing how disagreement can coexist with connection, empathy, and intellectual rigor in University life.

Harvard Law School (HLS)
From Dissent to Dialogue: Conservative and Progressive Legal Dialogue

This project established a shared space at Harvard Law School for conservative and progressive students to move past partisan opposition into genuine conversation. Co-hosted by the Federalist Society and the American Constitution Society, the series brought together judges, scholars, and practitioners to discuss hot-button legal issues, aiming to reduce siloing and model respectful, intellectually curious disagreement.

Attracting roughly 225 attendees, the events successfully fostered cross-engagement. By the second event, conservative and progressive participants were actively questioning and responding to one another, exploring ideas and positions via thoughtful conversation. Attendee feedback highlighted a strong desire for longer discussions and a unique interest in uncovering unexpected areas of agreement.

Ultimately, the series proved the high demand for well-structured, cross-ideological dialogue. It offers a flexible, scalable framework for addressing contentious topics at HLS and beyond, helping students understand not just what others believe, but why.

Learn more about the Dissent to Dialogue series in the Harvard Gazette

Harvard Medical School (HMS)
Reaffirming Community Values through Dialogue and Learning

The HMS Office of Culture and Community Engagement led a collaborative effort to review and update the School's mission and community values, engaging students, faculty, clinical and research fellows, and staff through surveys and in-person feedback sessions. The process helped clarify the principles that guide the HMS community while reinforcing a shared com-

mitment to civil discourse, mutual respect, and belonging. Building on this foundation, HMS offered a range of workshops, lectures, and community events focused on pluralism, constructive disagreement, interfaith engagement, and community building. Together, these efforts strengthened connections between personal and institutional values, creating opportunities for learning across differences and fostering a community grounded in dialogue, respect, and shared purpose.

Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM)
Strategic Planning and Constructive Dialogue

HSDM engaged its community in a comprehensive strategic planning process and a parallel initiative on Constructive Dialogue and Belonging, creating multiple opportunities for students, faculty, staff, and trainees to shape the School's future. Through listening sessions, forums, retreats, and open feedback periods, these efforts fostered shared ownership and reinforced a culture where all members can participate fully and engage across differences. To build on this foundation, HSDM also partnered with Harvard Medical School to provide dialogue facilitation training for faculty, staff, and student leaders, equipping participants with practical strategies to cultivate trust, navigate conflict, and encourage curiosity and civil discourse. Together, these initiatives advance a community rooted in participation, belonging, and meaningful engagement.

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (Chan SPH)
Crossroads Conversation Series: Connecting through Values

The Chan School's *Crossroads Conversation Series* brings together students, faculty, and alumni for informal, cross-departmental conversations centered on the moments and relationships that shape academic and personal growth. Through small-group discussions, faculty and alumni share how someone's advice, encouragement, or challenge impacted their life, and participants are invited to reflect on their own experiences and engage with perspectives across the community. By creating space for honest dialogue and meaningful connection, the series strengthens relationships across roles and disciplines while reinforcing the shared values that support Harvard's academic mission.

The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study
Depolarization Skills Workshop Series

In partnership with expert facilitators from Essential Partners, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study offers a staff development series that equips participants with practical tools for navigating conversations across differences with confidence and care. Through three sessions—focused on constructive communication, meeting design, and facilitation during difficult moments—participants explore why conversations can become challenging and learn strategies to foster trust, collaboration, and openness in the workplace. By emphasizing everyday communication skills and proactive engagement, the series helps staff build stronger relationships and create conditions for more productive dialogue across perspectives. Participant feedback highlighted the program's impact, with one attendee calling it "one of the best workplace trainings I have ever had," underscoring its value in advancing respectful engagement and cooperation across the Harvard community.



BELOW: HLS At the "From Dissent to Dialogue" event**,** legal experts from across the ideological spectrum joined and shared their perspectives. (from left) Nikolas Bowie, Brandeis Professor at HLS; Garrett West, associate professor of law at Yale Law School; Nancy Gertner, senior lecturer on law at HLS; Derek Muller, professor of law at Notre Dame; and John C.P. Goldberg, Chu Dean at HLS.

RIGHT: Participants in Harvard Chan School's Crossroads Conversation Series join in discussions aimed at fostering mutual learning, belonging, and a deeper commitment to one another and the community. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with one community member describing the experience as "life-changing".

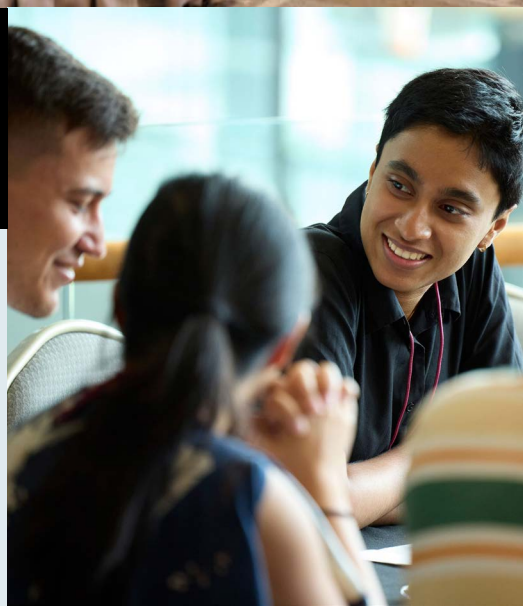


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HARVARD
Community and Campus Life

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Harvard community members gathered on the Harvard Medical School Quad to practice "Yoga for One Earth, One Health," which was supported by a Harvard Culture Lab Express Grant.

Access Resources

Website for community supports:
ccl.harvard.edu/resources-support

Stay Connected

Sign-up for CCL newsletter:
mailchi.mp/harvard/ccl-subscribe

Join Together

Attend an event with a friend:
news.harvard.edu/gazette/harvard-events/