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Registration Open for Virtual Training to Become a Civil Leader for Vibrant Communities

Do you want to strengthen your community? Are you concerned about divisions in communities, organizations, or teams? If you live or work in Wisconsin, you are invited to participate in a series of virtual trainings called “Civil Leadership for Vibrant Communities” offered by the University of Wisconsin-Madison’s Division of Extension this fall. This program is an opportunity to hone leadership skills and build networks.

People who have respectful conversations that include diverse perspectives usually make better decisions. That's particularly important now, when communities, organizations, and businesses are making decisions about difficult community issues.

Participants will learn and practice leadership skills in engaging virtual sessions. Past participants who’ve taken this training say the program helped build skills necessary to overcome divided conversations and issues. Participants also said they learned how to reduce negative stereotypes they’ve had about people with different perspectives.

“This program is a great way to learn how to have respectful and productive conversations with people who disagree with you,” said Jessica Jane Spayde, Community Development Educator with the Crawford County Extension office. “This is not about changing other people’s perspectives so they agree with you, but about practicing how to have effective, civil conversations when you disagree.”

A recent workshop participant said, “The program provided us with the knowledge and foundation to help fix community issues with our newly learned leadership qualities. Each session has you wanting more. I would take the program again!”

The workshop is sponsored by the national organization Braver Angels that uses family therapy-based research to depolarize America and build civil conversations. It’s also sponsored by UW Extension’s Green County Leaders program, the Green County Development Corporation, and in partnership with Extension Crawford County.

If you’re interested in building bridges across divisions, register by calling the Crawford County Extension office at 608-326-0223 by Friday, September 17. Register here:

<https://crawford.extension.wisc.edu/cd/leadership/> .