Deliberative polling

The Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy’s “Deliberative Polling” method brings together a representative sample of people to discuss issues with balanced briefing materials and trained moderators and has been conducted over 180 times in more than 25 countries. Regent's Trust experiment was among the largest of the center's projects.

Armed with classroom knowledge of the Deliberative Polling method they had learned back at Stanford, the students put it into practice in Dallas, maintaining their own most political narrative as residents and polling small voter groups full of varying viewpoints through productive conversations.

"It was a pretty incredible experience, and we felt like we were actually doing something to bolster democracy, rather than just being democracy's bystanders," Thorn said.

Sophomore Trenton Karmars' experience as a moderm guy of the new generation Asian American, was assigned a group that was suspicious of his qualifications to share their own political viewpoints (as keeping with his oriental heritage), those conducive to his instructions or to make proper remarks during the discussion, with one white elderly participant even going so far as to ask him if he was a Russian spy.

Karmars praised Karmars' ability to remain professional and impartial throughout. When Karmars finally shared his life story at the end of the experiment, including details about how his grandparents accepted Communist Chinese rule in Tibet and his parents were born in refugee settlements in India, his group applauded.

A major takeaway of the experiment is that the divide between Americans with different and extreme viewpoints is wide and substantial, the deliberations ended up being many participants' opinions, which moved more to the middle of the political spectrum.

Arkansas residents to President Trump — Wayne H. Way and Robo Donald — appeared on video to answer people's questions. Pro-Democratic candidates, Michael Bennet and Julian Castro, BA, also participated. The programming also incorporated conversations with top policy experts.

"We're not as polarized as some make in the media or political punditry will make us seem like," said Karmars, who is interested in pursuing a major in political science.

Karmar says this experience has given her more hope for American democracy. She plans to attend an upcoming convente conference to familiarize herself with points of views that might differ from her own.

"I just feel like you don't have to be extremist with some, people who vary differently from you, the more I think we're going to be able to help is to start making Democracy a little less polarized, a little less angry, a little less conversation," Karmar said.

Along with the Center for Deliberative Democracy, the Dallas event was organized by MiWos, a nonpartisan organization, and by the People's Revolution. The inclusion of voters was conducted by SIU at the University of Chicago. Chicago also produces a newsletter, of which political science at Stanford School of Humanities and Sciences. Politicians are professors, by courtesy, of political science and director of the Center for Deliberative Democracy. She is the Center's associate director.