

Creating Futures

University of Colorado *Boulder*



Promoting Cooperative and Creative Decision-Making
Center for Conflict, Collaboration
and Creative Governance

Department of Communication



New Approaches Can Improve Decision-Making

Across social contexts, large and costly conflicts are fueled by interdependence, economic crises, cultural gaps, resource shortages, climate change, and ethnic strife. These conflicts involve complex interactions and decision-making processes. To solve them, we need advanced communication concepts and practices that promote creative, just, and mutually beneficial choices.

Fortunately, we're working to improve and transform communication practices, governance, and decision-making—leading to productive, creative answers to these problems. And the Department of Communication, along with University of Colorado at Boulder partners, is poised to take a leading role in making this happen.

As a schoolteacher, **Josephine B. Jones** ('23 AS) believed in the value of communication. As a scholarship recipient herself, she knew the importance of giving University of Colorado students a leg up. The Department of Communication endowment she generously established provides graduate assistantships, course support, and an annual lectureship.



Drawing on Existing Strengths

The new Center for Conflict, Collaboration and Creative Governance enhances our ability to aid sustainable development, reduce social tensions, and contribute to a more peaceful world.

A firm foundation is already in place for the Center, which advances joint contributions from the following programs:

- The **Department of Communication** in the College of Arts & Sciences, which will house the Center, provides high-caliber study in the theories and practices of human interaction, participation, collaboration, deliberation, and decision-making. Its faculty and staff are committed to direct involvement in community concerns, and as indicated by national honors for teaching, research, and service.
- The university's interdisciplinary **Peace and Conflict Studies Program** (PACS) helps students explore why conflict and violence occur, and learn how conflict can be avoided, managed, or diverted toward constructive ends. Hundreds of students participate in programs and courses that explore the complex dynamics of peace and conflict at multiple levels of human interaction—aimed toward fostering just, equitable, and peaceful conditions worldwide.
- Founded in 1988, the **Conflict Information Consortium** is a pioneering online resource for research on existing and new technology innovation approaches to conflict and intervention. It attracts

175,000 unique web site visits monthly from users around the world who seek access to its 600 distinct topics as well as to **Beyond Intractability**, the world's broadest and most systematic catalog of international expertise on intractable conflict.

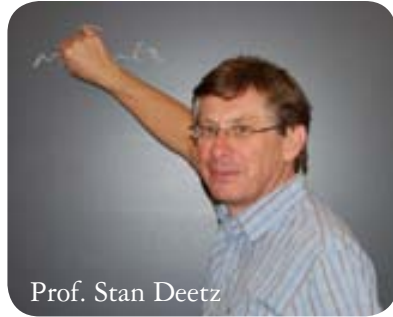
- The **University of Colorado** is home to myriad programs that promote and inspire student engagement and community connections—from environmental studies and energy programs that enhance conservation while managing other priorities, to an Engineers Without Borders program that helps developing areas overcome resource shortages. CU-Boulder produces more Peace Corps volunteers than nearly any other U.S. university.
- The **City of Boulder** is renowned for its social consciousness, and is a hotbed for leading thought-leaders, businesses, nonprofits, and federal laboratories in renewable energy, human rights, collaborative governance, and other fields.

This new Center will draw on the above strengths to become an efficient and effective leadership hub for the better understanding of conflict, collaboration, and creative governance.

All we need is your support.

How You Can Help

“The challenges of conflict and effective governance are as serious as the threats of climate change or disease pandemics,” says Professor and PACS Director Stan Deetz. “These communication challenges deserve comparable attention—but fortunately, they’re treatable, and people are enthusiastic about doing something about them.”



Prof. Stan Deetz

With your support, they’ll be confronting these challenges at CU-Boulder. You can accelerate positive change by helping us establish the Center and fund these priorities:

- We have a critical mass of faculty, students, resources, ideas, and infrastructure. One-time and endowed **operating support for the Center** will enhance synergies, collaborations, and outreach among key stakeholders; generate momentum to staff and operate the Center; accelerate development and dissemination of relevant research, and direct these facets toward a common goal: forging connections through better communication.
- **Student engagement projects** ensure that new theories generated and developed at CU-Boulder are grounded in concrete practice, and can rapidly take root in the real world. One such project is the Civic and Social Engagement (CASE) project (comm.colorado.edu/case), which gives students the opportunity to explore innovations in governance and communication that can lead to a greener future. Increasing paid internships will extend the reach of this and other student-outreach activities.

“A background in conflict resolution was incredibly useful in my career as a journalist, and it set me up for my current position working for the Abraham Path Initiative, an international NGO working to bridge the divide between the West and the Middle East.”

Cate Malek

PACS graduate and former employee of the Conflict Information Consortium

- A 2010 Cultures of Peace conference would bring together researchers, policy-makers, military personnel, secondary-school teachers, and community professionals to develop workable steps toward peaceful solutions to large-scale conflicts, with a focus on communication and governance issues. More than a single isolated event, the conference will be a coalescing step in a large-scale collaborative-learning process that could influence policy-makers and endure well into the future.
- The Conflict Information Consortium has seen a sharp uptick in Internet traffic, but demand for it currently exceeds its technological capacity. New servers will ensure it remains a resource for the thousands of people daily who rely on the information housed there, and nowhere else.

Giving options include naming opportunities that allow you to leave a personal or professional legacy at CU-Boulder.

Communication PhD student **Sara McClellan** is particularly drawn to the role of communication in sustainable development and local community planning. She is working with the City of Golden, 20 miles south of campus, to identify and study innovative approaches to participatory community planning.





To learn about the many ways you can make a difference:

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The Time Is Now

Routine and episodic conflict looms on numerous fronts. Our inability to deal properly with these conflicts can be very costly and deadly, and can threaten our progress toward environmental and social sustainability.

A contribution toward the Center for Conflict, Collaboration and Creative Governance will be an investment toward improving communication to enhance the greater good, beyond our borders and in our communities. It will be change you can see with your own eyes. Please join us on this worthy endeavor.

"We're increasingly realizing that we cannot compartmentalize our problems. We're going to need everyone—if not their input, then at least their openness. Working in education, it's an everyday test to put the communication skills I learned at CU to use. It's also a daily affirmation of the need to talk with people who may not share my background or perspective, but who share our complex world."

Jessica Forthofer '08
Philip Tompkins Award winner

All gifts should be payable to the University of Colorado Foundation for the purpose designated.

Colorado
University of Colorado at Boulder

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