Text Talk, Revive Civility: A National Conversation about Civility
Tuesday Aug. 9
2:40-3:55 pm

Former State Representative Ted Celeste is Director of State Programs at the National Institute for Civil Discourse. Mr. Celeste leads Next Generation, a program of NICD. His goal is to inspire and support state legislators who want to promote greater understanding and better decision-making. As part of a bi-partisan team, Celeste has facilitated trainings for the CSG Midwest Regional Conference and the Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont and Washington Legislatures. He has also presented at the CSG BILLD leadership program in Madison, the National CSG annual meeting in Kansas City, and NCSL's annual legislative summit in Seattle.

Celeste served in the Ohio Legislature from 2007-2012. Known for working effectively “across the aisle” whether he was in the majority or the minority, he has lived his belief in respectful dialogue. One of the only candidates for state office who insisted on running a positive campaign, he won each of his 3 races with a comfortable majority in a swing district. He was recognized for his emphasis on civil dialogue with the John Glenn Public Policy Institute’s Outstanding Public Service Award in 2011. Celeste lives in Columbus, Ohio, is married and has two daughters and 3 grandchildren.

Now in his fourteenth year in the Idaho Legislature, Senator Brent Hill presides over the State Senate as the President Pro Tem. He also sits on the State Affairs Committee and is a key member of the Joint Legislative Economic Outlook Committee, which helps determine the state’s budget each year.

Hill is a retired Certified Public Accountant with over 35-years-experience working with business and agriculture. Born and raised in Idaho, he graduated valedictorian from Madison High School. He earned his accounting degree from Utah State University where he has been honored as the university’s Outstanding Accounting Graduate and Alumnus of the Year.

Hill also writes articles for newspapers around the state and has authored a book entitled A Matter of Principle that explores the fundamental ideals that guided America’s Founders. He and his wife Julie are the parents of four sons and enjoy nineteen grandchildren.
Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Representative Stephanie Howse has lived most of her life in the community she represents. Howse is a graduate of the Cleveland School of the Arts where she studied vocal and instrumental music. After high school, Stephanie earned her undergraduate degree in Civil Environmental Engineering from Florida A&M University and her Master’s degree in Environmental Studies from Cleveland State University. In 2002, Howse took the first step in heeding her call to public and community service by starting Footprints, a girls leadership development and mentoring organization operating inside Thurgood Marshall Recreation Center dedicated to nurturing and cultivating a positive self-image in girls ages 9 – 17, while building character on the principles of Self Respect. Representative Howse’s desire to be a public servant was inspired by her mother Annie L. Key, a former State Representative.

Dr. Carolyn J. Lukensmeyer is the Executive Director of the National Institute for Civil Discourse, an organization that works to reduce political dysfunction and incivility in our political system. As a leader in the field of deliberative democracy, she works to restore our democracy to reflect the intended vision of our founding fathers.

Dr. Lukensmeyer previously served as Founder and President of AmericaSpeaks, an award-winning nonprofit organization that promoted nonpartisan initiatives to engage citizens and leaders through the development of innovative public policy tools and strategies. During her tenure, AmericaSpeaks engaged more than 165,000 people and hosted events across all 50 states and throughout the world. Dr. Lukensmeyer formerly served as Consultant to the White House Chief of Staff from 1993-94 and on the National Performance Review where she steered internal management and oversaw government-wide reforms. She was the Chief of Staff to Ohio Governor Richard F. Celeste from 1986-91, becoming the first woman to serve in this capacity. She earned her PhD in Organizational Behavior from Case Western Reserve University and has completed postgraduate training at the Gestalt Institute of Cleveland.
Representative Matt Pouliot serves on the Legislature's Education and Cultural Affairs Committee where he has taken a keen interest in passing measures to advance financial literacy in Maine's high school curriculum. He has also passed many pieces of legislation to address the growing student debt problem that is significantly impacting his generation nationwide. In 2013, Pouliot was appointed by the Governor of the State of Maine to serve on the Maine Economic Growth Council and was also appointed by the Speaker of the House to serve on the Commission to Improve College Affordability and Completion. Matt is also a member of the National Council of State Legislatures Education Standing Committee and the co-chair of the Maine Youth Caucus, a bi-partisan group of legislators under the age of 30 in Maine. He married the former Heather Marie Veilleux on August 17, 2013 and resides in Augusta.