

## **Aiming for Civility and Respectful Dialogue**

*Annual Contemporary Issues Institute tackles cause and effects of society's rude behavior*

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February 12, 2015

### ***For Immediate Release***

EAST LANSING, Mich. – It's widely acknowledged that incivility is highly visible in modern life. Examples of rude behavior involving political discussions, sporting events, shopping, and driving on the roads are frequently caught on video and displayed repeatedly on television news and social media.

The MSU Center for Community and Economic Development (CCED) will address "Cultivating a Civil Society in an Era of Incivility" during its annual Contemporary Issues Institute on Friday, March 6 at the State Capitol Building in downtown Lansing.

"The issue of incivility has been an increasing problem in society over the years," said Rex LaMore, director of MSU CCED. "This year's half day Institute will provide participants an opportunity to explore the roots of incivility, learn about possible strategies that might lead us to a more civil society, and connect us with others who may share this interest."

Dr. David Mathews, president of the Kettering Foundation, will address attendees via Skype. "Civility is the regard for others that results from a recognition that we need our fellow citizens for the work that only citizens can do," said Mathews. The foundation, headquartered in Dayton, Ohio with offices in Washington, D.C. and New York City, conducts cooperative research that focuses on what people can do collectively to address problems affecting their lives, their communities, and their nation. Dr. Mathews served as Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) in the Gerald R. Ford administration.

The event is open to those interested in learning about the causes and effects of incivility on society, and ways to mitigate and prevent it. Sessions include: Our Individual Civil Character, How Place Might Promote Incivility, Theories of Incivility, and Media/Technology and Incivility. Participants will have an opportunity to learn from, and discuss with, fellow innovative thinkers and doers from across Michigan and the U.S.



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The morning begins with a performance by the Flint Youth Theater group.

Registration and more information is available on the CCED website at <http://ced.msu.edu/institute>.

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The mission of the Michigan State University Center for Community and Economic Development is to advance MSU's land-grant mission by creating, disseminating and applying knowledge to improve the quality of life in distressed communities.

Michigan State University has been advancing knowledge and transforming lives through innovative teaching, research and outreach for more than 150 years. MSU is known internationally as a major public university with global reach and extraordinary impact. Its 17 degree-granting colleges attract scholars worldwide who are interested in combining education with practical problem solving.