LELA 201: Heritage or Hate: Reframing the Issues
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Course Objectives/Content:
How can North Carolina's local elected officials facilitate conversations about the issues that matter most to our state in the context of a divisive political atmosphere? In many ways, citizens now gravitate towards a "we-they" society, and for local government officials these conflicts are up close and personal. Moving forward through tough conversations is difficult. Rather than continuing to frame issues as intractably oppositional, our goal is to bring people together for open discussion about differences of opinion, and to move forward around common values and a sober look at our shared history.

This class provides a framework for hearing claims from diverse political perspectives and creating productive conversations about the critical policy issues that matter to North Carolina's communities. You will learn how to think about the points of difference and shared values between North Carolinians on opposing sides of the divisive issues around our shared history.

Learning Objectives:
In this class, you will learn the following effective leadership skills and behaviors:
- Seeing and developing strategies for facilitating productive public conversations around contested issues in a manner that promotes resolution.
- Listening, responding to, and framing contested issues in a way that respects legitimate differences in opinion—and that avoids reflex frameworks like "friend/enemy" and "villain/victim."
- Affording space for airing diverse points of view: practicing techniques for engaging in and managing these kinds of difficult conversations.
- Thinking about and sharing ways to move forward in the context of those differences to promote more just outcomes.

9:00   **Welcome and Introductions**

9:30   **Small Group Exercise- Scenarios**

10:00   **Large Group Discussions on Scenarios**

10:20   **Break**

10:30   **Techniques for Speaking/Facilitating Difficult Conversations**

11:00   **Small Group Exercise- Redoing a Tough Conversation**

11:30   **Large Group Discussion and Concluding Thoughts**