Teaching Controversial Issues: 
Assisting Students in Seeing Beyond the Subcultures in which They Were Raised

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Thursday, August 30  
1:30–3:30 p.m.  
Room 50 Milton Hall

The landscape of controversial issues has become quite complex these days! As college professors, one of our greatest challenges is to educate and sensitize students to a broad range of divisive issues. At the core of students’ attitudes is an identity that has been developed on the constructed realities of their subculture. Innovative methods for “de-constructing students’ constructed realities” will be demonstrated. A framework for discussing controversial issues while preventing incivility will be provided. Numerous powerful video segments and simulations will be discussed.

Participants will:
1. Identify the potential for controversy inherent in the learning outcomes we hope to achieve.
2. Examine their methods for preventing and responding to students’ with very strong attitudes.
3. Reflect on how they might alter their methods for teaching potentially controversial issues.

Christy Price, Ph.D., is a professor of psychology at Dalton State College and has been teaching at the collegiate level for 20 years. Dr. Price has won many teaching awards at from the institute to the national level, including the 2010 Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching U.S. Professor Award for the state of Georgia. Dr. Price’s awards are, in part, a result of her use of innovative strategies in assisting students to achieve learning outcomes. Her most recent research focuses on engaging Millennial learners and preventing incivility in the classroom.