



Sent: January 14, 2009

Subject: New Year & New Resources

Greetings and best wishes for a fruitful new year.

We need your help! We want to make our web site more of a learning exchange with more resources. We'd like to add three new sections to our site and we need you to send us ideas for these sections:

Blogs: There are a growing number of bloggers who are writing about deliberative democracy. For example, CIRCLE Director and TDI Board Member, [Peter Levine's blog](#) just turned six years old (congrats). Peter is frequently writing about youth civic engagement and deliberative democracy. What blogs do you read? [Send us](#) your top 1-2-3.

Best Practices: Faculty, staff, and students across the country are experimenting with and launching new programs and that are good for deliberative democracy. For example, TDI member and UNC faculty member John Stephens recently sent us some [online training modules](#) for public officials on how to collaborate more effectively. We've also been talking with faculty at St. Lawrence University, where the [First-Year Program](#) consists of about 20 residential learning communities designed to foster students' "intellectual and social skills" and the "values and habits of engaged citizenship." All seminars consider questions of voice, audience, rhetoric, and representation. If you are proud of a model program on your campus, please [send](#) it our way!

Best Thing I Read (or Heard) This Week: Every day, we know TDI members are reading, watching and listening to countless books, radio programs, newspapers, magazines, scholarly journals, blogs, podcasts, etc. TDI Director Nancy Thomas confesses to being an [On Point with Tom Ashbrook](#) junkie. She also read an article in the UTNE Reader called "[The People's Professor](#)," about Professor Dennis Dalton at Barnard College, who invited residents of Harlem to his classes, with surprising results. What inspired you this week? [Send it](#) to us.

Best wishes for a good start to the semester and please send us your blogs, programs and the great things you are reading - we will all benefit.