CLOSE UP NEXTGEN ROUNDTABLE

FROM CLASSROOMS TO CAREERS:
HOW AI IS SHAPING OUR PATHS

December 3-6, 2025 | Houston, TX

Inspiring student leaders to turn tough topics into thoughtful conversations.

This December 3-6 in Houston, Close Up, the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), and the Stanford University Deliberative Democracy Lab (DDL) are hosting From Classrooms to Careers: How AI is Shaping Our Paths, a NextGen Roundtable national deliberation for high school students to help them critically examine the role of AI in the lives of today's young people. The goal? To facilitate meaningful conversations about what the future holds with this rapidly evolving technology, to **build students' deliberation and facilitation skills**, and to help them understand **how they can put those skills to use back at school**.

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PROGRAM DETAILS

Dates: Wednesday, December 3, to Saturday, December 6, 2025

Location: The program will take place at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston. Students will stay at a nearby hotel in the Houston metropolitan area.

Program Highlights: Over the course of this deliberative experience, students will consider multiple perspectives on AI-related policy topics, critically examine their own views, explore the values and tensions that shape opinions, hear from expert panels, and ultimately work with a diverse cohort of peers to reach consensus. Following the deliberation, DDL will produce a Youth Impact Report to evaluate movement in student dispositions, measure open-mindedness to multiple perspectives, and reflect youth recommendations. Students will also be eligible to earn a Civil Discourse Credential through Close Up and DDL.

Students will:

- Deliberate on the role of AI using a portfolio of balanced and vetted materials.
- Learn from panels of experts in relevant technology and policy fields.
- Hear from and engage with DDL leaders.
- Work and build relationships with students from across the country.
- Develop the skills of facilitation, listening, empathy, and understanding of diverse perspectives to bring deliberation and civil discourse back to their schools.

ELIGIBILITY

This event is open to high school students in grades 9-12 who have an interest in public policy, civil discourse, deliberation, and facilitating challenging conversations back in their school communities. We ask that schools bring a cohort of 4-8 students. A faculty advisor must accompany students by attending the concurrent NAIS educator conference. Close Up will provide all participating educators with tangible ways to support student leaders as they bring this important work back to their schools and communities.

TUITION

The all-inclusive fee is $1,495 per student. This covers all summit sessions, evening activities, meals, hotel accommodations, and daytime and nighttime supervision and security.

REGISTRATION PROCESS

Please visit our website for more information and registration details.

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ABOUT CLOSE UP

Close Up is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, civic education organization that informs, inspires, and empowers young people to become active citizens. Since 1971, we have partnered with school districts nationwide to serve more than one million students and educators through experiential learning programs in our nation's capital and in local communities, professional development, and curriculum design and consulting. Our goal is to connect what students learn in class to the real world around them and help them articulate their own views, listen to those of others, and engage with people of different backgrounds with tolerance and understanding. To learn more, visit CloseUp.org.

ABOUT NAIS

The National Association of Independent Schools is a nonprofit membership association dedicated to unlocking the extraordinary potential in students, independent schools, and their communities. We provide services to more than 2,000 schools and associations of schools in the United States and internationally. To learn more, visit NAIS.org.

ABOUT THE STANFORD UNIVERSITY DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY LAB

The Deliberative Democracy Lab at Stanford University is devoted to research about democracy and public opinion obtained through Deliberative Polling®. The method of Deliberative Polling has been used in over 50 countries around the world through over 150 projects, at varying levels of government and society. To learn more, visit https://deliberation.stanford.edu/.