

## WHO WE ARE

The Positive Connection Initiative (PCI) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit helping institutions equip students, faculty, and staff to navigate disagreement with active listening, emotional awareness, and curiosity. Read about our work at Binghamton University in the [New York Times](#).

## OUR APPROACH

We help campuses build sustainable dialogue infrastructure through interactive skills training and community-wide initiatives. Our research-based model uses small group discussion and roleplay to emphasize:

- **Listening to Understand**
- **Curious Inquiry**
- **Tone & Emotional Regulation**

## INTEGRATION

- Orientation and first-year workshops
- Faculty and staff trainings
- Ambassador/facilitator programs
- Dialogue microcredentials or recognition pathways
- Strategic planning and culture-change consulting

## IMPACT

Since launching, PCI programs have reached over 2,300 participants, helping them build stronger skills for connection and dialogue. Post-workshop surveys showed (n = 680 first-year students):

- 98% reported greater readiness for respectful, nonjudgmental conversations
- 65% “strongly agreed” – more prepared to ask questions of genuine curiosity
- 63% “strongly agreed” – more prepared to regulate tone during difficult conversations

“My parents and I have very different political standpoints ... I could not understand why they kept on arguing for something that I thought was definitely wrong and immoral. **After this program, I went home for winter break and have not escalated the explosive arguments we have but asked insightful questions** about why they think that way.”

– First-year student

## WORK WITH US

We’re seeking new institutional partners to adapt and expand this model. **Contact us at [pci@connection.net](mailto:pci@connection.net) or visit [www.connection.net](http://www.connection.net)**