

# SPRING 2026

THE CENTER FOR SOCIAL  
JUSTICE DIALOGUE



UMBC

## FOR STUDENTS (UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE)

**Bridge Builders:** Weekly on Thursdays (5:15 - 6:30pm)

*CSJD x The Center for Religion, Spirituality, & Pluralism*

Bridge Builders is a cohort-based experience that invites students into a semester-long opportunity to build dialogue skills focused on tense and hot-button issues connected to religion and spirituality.

**Crafting Your Story:** 3/30 (3:30 - 5pm), 4/7 (Noon - 2pm)

*Peer-Led Program by Facilitation Fellows*

Crafting Your Story explores storytelling as a powerful practice rooted in identity, culture, and community. At CYS events, participants will reflect upon and share their own cultural stories, create their own craft project, and learn how cultures around the world have used crafting, such as stitching, beading, quilting, and other art forms, to tell and preserve stories.

**Media Bytes:** 2/27, 3/25 (5 - 6:30pm)

*Peer-Led Program by Facilitation Fellows*

Media Bytes invites participants to engage social justice topics through shared media and meaningful dialogue. In this series, we listen to short “bytes” of podcasts, films, or TV clips, or songs and come together for guided conversation. Media Bytes encourages curiosity, critical listening, and collective reflection as we unpack complex issues, one byte at a time.

**SistaCare:** 2/12, 2/26, 3/12, 3/26, 4/9, 4/23, 5/7 (3 - 4:30pm)

*CSJD x Retriever Integrated Health*

SistaCare is a community-care and dialogue group that explores the ways undergraduate and graduate students who identify as Black/Africana women and femmes, regardless of their gender expression, experience campus communities. Sessions will explore lived experience, impact, and connection.

**To RSVP, or for more information, visit our myUMBC at  
[my3.my.umbc.edu/groups/csjd](https://my3.my.umbc.edu/groups/csjd)**

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See the other side of this flyer  
for more events!

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## FOR FACULTY, STAFF & GRADUATE STUDENTS

**Building Bridges Across Difference: A Dialogue for Everyday Series: 2/18, 3/11, 4/8 (11:45am - 1pm)**

This series equips participants with practical tools to foster connection and understanding across differences in today's polarized climate. Grounded in the Center for Social Justice Dialogue's commitment to shared power and inclusive practices, this series provides strategies to build trust, navigate challenging and emotionally charged moments, and create environments that encourage community and mutual respect.

## FOR EVERYONE

### Critical Social Justice Week

As part of the Community and Culture unit, CSJD is an organizing partner in Critical Social Justice Week 2026. Critical Social Justice (CSJ) Week is a campus-wide initiative dedicated to deepening our collective understanding of equity, inclusion, and community care. This year's theme is **Caring for Community: Role of Justice Within the University!** Check out some of the featured programs, such as:

- **Chat + Chew: 2/25 (Noon - 1pm)**

Bring your lunch and join Dr. Jasmine A. Lee for conversation and reflection as we explore bell hooks' *All About Love*. Together, we'll explore how love shapes our lives, communities, and selves.

### Social Justice Dialogue Cohort Experiences

The Social Justice Dialogue Cohort Experiences at UMBC are 8 two-hour dialogue circles that bring together students, faculty, and staff, to engage in sustained, facilitated dialogue across difference. In a time of growing polarization and deepening social divides, and fear surrounding living authentically, the Social Justice Dialogues Cohort Experience (SJDCE) offers a way forward, not through debate or persuasion, but through connection, listening and shared learning.

### Group/Meeting Facilitation: By request!

Identity-based, skilled guidance for meetings, planning sessions, difficult conversations, or group processes to ensure productive dialogue and meaningful outcomes.

*To request accommodation(s) or to inquire about event accessibility, please get in touch with us via email, [CSJDialogue@umbc.edu](mailto:CSJDialogue@umbc.edu). All sessions are open for full participation by all individuals regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or any other protected category under applicable federal law, state law, and the University's nondiscrimination policy.*