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Collaborative Training for Texas Legislators at UT Law

AUSTIN, Texas – Members of the Texas Legislature explored ways to collaborate during a hands-on training held at The University of Texas School of Law, on Jan. 11-12.

“A New Texas: How to Harness the Power of Collaboration” was co-sponsored by The Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution (Center) at The University of Texas Law School, National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), and Policy Consensus Initiative, Inc. (PCI).



Sen. Roger Moe, former Majority Leader of the Minnesota Senate and Bruce Feustel, senior fellow, Legislative Management Program for NCSL answer questions.

All members of the Texas Legislature were invited to take participate in the training in the Law School’s Sheffield Room.

Legislators focused on improving collaboration when working together in challenging situations, and also explored the power of bringing together constituents to address issues. “As the legislature moves past a challenging speaker’s race, the concepts of collaboration from this training can help us all find common ground,” stated Jan Summer, Executive Director of the Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution.

The program sought to enhance participants’ abilities to build trust with colleagues, improve skills at resolving differences, disagree with others without being personal, promote a civil legislative environment, and bring people together to find effective solutions.

NCSL and PCI have recently sponsored similar programs for several other state legislatures, but this is the first time it was offered in Texas. The Center is a state-wide leader in the field of public policy consensus building in Texas.

Presenters at the program included Sen. Roger Moe, former Majority Leader of the Minnesota Senate; Sen. Lana Oleen, former Majority Leader of the Kansas State Senate; Chris Carlson, executive director of PCI; Bruce Feustel, senior fellow, Legislative Management Program for NCSL; and Mary Margaret Golten, founding partner of CDR Associates.