During 2015 – 2016, the Mathews Center conducted 50+ forums across Alabama on issues ranging from early childhood development to financial literacy. Over 1k+ participants from 48 counties engaged their local community.

Alabama Issues Forums
During 2015 – 2016, the Mathews Center moderated over 70 forums across Alabama on issues ranging from early childhood development to financial literacy. Over 1 thousand participants across the state came together to deliberate on urgent questions related to parenting, including access to quality pre-K services, affordable healthcare for both parents and children, and the need for expanded home economics programs for new and young parents.

Coaching Community Innovation
CCI introduces new communities to the practice of deliberation, and gives them an opportunity to become familiar with the format of a public forum designed to engage their local community.

CCI workshops equip Alabamians to identify an issue of public concern, find common ground among differing perspectives, and move towards collective action. During 2015 – 2016, the Mathews Center conducted twenty CCI workshops with over 400 Alabamians.

Alabamians Who Make a Difference
Alabamians Who Make a Difference is a conversation series aimed at capturing and sharing the stories of Alabamians who are doing important work in their communities. Most recently, the Mathews Center featured the work of Restoration 154 to engage Elba residents in improving their community.

In 2015, the DMC partnered with the National Conference on Citizenship, Auburn University’s College of Liberal Arts, and the University of Alabama’s New College to author the 2015 Alabama Civic Health Index. In 2016, the DMC released a comprehensive report on its AIF series, Minding Our Future: Investing in Healthy Infants and Toddlers.

The Mathews Center’s annual Civic Institute, launched in August of 2016, brought 125 Alabamians together to create new connections and develop a network for strengthening civic life in Alabama. The annual event connects individuals and organizations engaged in improving Alabama’s civic health to have a greater collective impact across our great state.

The day-long Civic Institute was followed up by a celebratory dinner marking the tenth anniversary of the DMC. Nearly 200 attendees packed the American Village’s Liberty Hall to pay tribute to the legacy of Dr. David Mathews, and to celebrate the work that the DMC does in its mission to strengthen civic life across the state of Alabama.

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Jean O’Connor-Snyder Internship Program
The JOIP internship is the DMC’s longest-running program to date, and carries forth Jean O’Connor-Snyder’s spirit of mentorship and active citizenship. Since its founding, nearly 150 students have participated in a truly immersive civic learning experience. Interns come to the program from many different academic disciplines, and guided by a faculty mentor, have represented institutions including:

- Alabama A&M University
- Auburn University
- Miles College
- Stillman College
- Troy University
- Tuskegee University
- University of Alabama
- UAB
- University of Montevallo
- University of South Alabama