MFV Civic Engagement Curriculum Design Project, Fall 2018

The HART, made up of undergraduate students from ecology & evolutionary biology, environmental science, mathematical economic analysis, sociology, economics, and social policy analysis, collaborated with Mi Familia Vota (MFV), a voter turnout and advocacy organization, to create a high school level civic engagement toolkit. The toolkit is comprised of activities that high school government teachers can use in the classroom that both fits a curriculum that increases civic engagement and coincides with current Texas Education Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) standards. This project drew upon pedagogical, political science, sociology, and education literature in order to develop classroom activities that are both engaging for students, increase the probability of real world civic engagement, and further Texas educational benchmarks. In developing this toolkit, the team held focus groups and surveyed government and social studies teachers in order to workshop the toolkit and get feedback. The team’s effort resulted in a toolkit of activities that touch upon a variety of civic skills and multiple TEKS that is ready for high school teachers to begin using in the classroom.