UTSA

Center for Civic Engagement

Call for Participation in Research Project on Civic Engagement and Technology

The Center for Civic Engagement is looking for students who want to participate in a research project that focuses on technology, innovation, entrepreneurship, and digital mobile technologies for civic engagement, primarily in their use by local governments to empower citizens, improve communication channels, data transparency, and strengthen democratic values.

Due to a current collaboration with the City of San Antonio, Dr. Alberto Gómez, Guest Researcher at the Center for Civic Engagement, is implementing a pilot project for a mobile App to deliver 311 Services. By participating in this project and engaging in research activities, you will be in interacting with school faculty, city officials from the Office of Innovation, the Office of Information Technology, and with members of communities around the city of San Antonio.

The research will address questions like, can mobile communication technologies improve the numbers and quality of civic engagement in local communities? Developing a grassroots community-organizing program to blend with the mobile communication technologies raise the level of civic engagement in local communities? Can mobile phones become meaningful tools to build working structures for civic engagement and learning? What are the political and institutional tensions inherent to the use of mobile phones and ubiquitous computing to empower citizens?

Qualifications:

- A passion for supporting research and researchers to work towards advancing knowledge collectively.
- Experience or willing to work in a fast-paced knowledge production environments.
- Some familiarity with technology, civic engagement, and academic research work. Experience connecting research findings to advocacy and/or policy recommendations (including using research to challenge approaches being taken).
- Comfort and experience, or interested in working between business/tech industry actors, government, civil society, and research.
- Excellent writing and editing skills; public speaking skills a plus.

To apply, please send an email to Dr. Jose Alberto Gomez including the following:

1. A cover letter explaining your interest in this role, how you learned about this opportunity, your research experience or what your expectations are for getting involved with research efforts, and how you see the intersection of technology and society today.
   (Please also include the names, affiliations, and email address of one reference)
2. Your resume/CV
3. Send email to ***jose.gomez3@utsa.edu***