



# Department of Civic Thought and Leadership

## Civics Educational Imperatives

### Why do we need civics education?

- American's participation in civic life is essential to sustaining our democratic form of government (Brookings Institute).
- While our focus on STEM has shown an increase in our math and science scores, we have seen corresponding decreases in civics literacy.
- For the past several decades, there has been a significant decline in the level of civics engagement nationwide.
- Today, 1 in 4 adults cannot correctly name the 3 branches of government.
- Only 19% of citizens 45 or younger can pass the U.S. Citizenship test.
- Preparing our youth to compete and win in the 21st century requires a multi-disciplinary approach to include civics literacy.

### The aim of the Department of Civic Thought and Leadership is three-fold:

- **Civic Knowledge:** Students will gain a basic understanding of governmental process to include the design and purpose of the three branches of government, civic responsibilities and constitutional rights, and the history and heritage of the republican form of government
- **Civic Values:** Students will gain an appreciation for civil discourse, free speech, respectful debate, and engagement with those who have different views and perspectives. Students will develop an understanding of the common good and public service.
- **Civic Behaviors:** Students will develop sufficient civics literacy to confidently vote, volunteer within their communities, and engage in public meetings and discussions with the democratic process. The Department of Civic Thought and Leadership at the university level will help to bridge the knowledge gap and provide a platform for research, debate, and skill building.