**Civic Engagement Policy Statement**

An essential part of the Graduate Student Organization Leadership Initiative is to provide students an enriched educational and social experience during their graduate experience that leads to lifelong learning and personal growth as well as professional success. To that end, the program encourages participation in civic engagement activities, thereby promoting the service cornerstone of student leaders. All participating organizations must complete 30 hours of civic engagement activities per year. The hours cannot be in conjunction with academic or classroom requirements. In effort to show significant impact of involvement that SHSU graduate students have on campus as well as in the community, information on civic engagement will be collected on a rolling basis and will be complied at the end of each semester. All civic engagement activities are subject to approval by the Office of Graduate Studies staff.

Civic engagement is any activity that benefits a non-profit agency, civic organization, or local community. The civic engagement hours are totaled from individual student hours. For example, if 3 people participate in a two hour event then it would count as a total of 6 hours.

Examples of Civic Engagement Activities include (but not limited to):

• Food drives/ assisting in a food pantry

• Community clean-up

• Voter Registration

• Volunteering at a school, nursing home, shelter, or hospital

• Coat/ blanket drive

Organizations participating in the Graduate Student Organization Leadership Initiative are required to complete the following forms if they want volunteer hours to be counted toward the organization’s participation requirements:

1) The Community Service Volunteer Proposal form should be completed and submitted to The Office of Graduate Studies.

2) The Service Hour Log form should be filled out in its entirety and submitted each semester; students may submit individual forms for each event they complete. \*\*

\*\*All civic engagement hours will need to be logged on the correct service hour log sheet and submitted to The Office of Graduate Studies.

If you have any questions regarding civic engagement activities, please contact our office at 936-294-2408 or at gradstudies@shsu.edu