**“Curricula development, Experiential Learning, Networking, and Agroecology for a diverse student clientele: a four pronged approach to overcoming barriers to agricultural education and careers for Hispanic Students in S. Texas”**

**CHALLENGES**

- **Obesity & Nutrition-Related Diseases**
  - #1 in Obesity
  - #4 in Diabetes

- **Food Insecurity**
  - Despite being an agriculturally rich area, very poor access to healthy food (food desert)
  - S. Texas one of poorest areas in US
  - Fewest per capita vegetable consumption

- **Climate Change**
  - Agriculture competes for water, a increasingly limited resource

  - Disconnect between local food systems and local residents

**INPUTS**

- Funding: USDA-HIS
- Expertise from PDs & Partners:
  - Agroecology
  - Research
  - Education
  - Informal Learning
  - Curricula Development
  - Administration

**ACTIVITIES**

- **What we do:**
  - Curricula Development:
  - Experiential Learning through internships with partnering agencies
  - Networking through diverse multi member partnership
  - Agroecology for a diverse student clientele
  - UTEACH Teacher Development
  - Summer workshop for STEM Teachers

- **Who we reach:**
  - Undergraduate & Graduate Students in Agricultural/Food Sciences
  - STEM Student Teachers
  - High School STEM Teachers
  - High school students
  - Faculty at UTPA and other universities

**OUTPUT**

- 4 New course offerings at UTPA in Agroecology
- 36 Internships with partnering institutions
- New scientific knowledge produced
- Networking forum, including listserv and website
- Numerous Students with knowledge, skills, and attributes for federal agriculture jobs
- Instructional tools for broadening treatment of agriculture in HS curricula
- Evaluation of program effectiveness

**LEARNING**

- **STUDENTS**
  - Skills in scientific research and communication
  - Knowledge, skills, and attributes for careers in agriculture
  - Understanding of intersection of agriculture and society

- **FACULTY**
  - Knowledge of inquiry-based agriculture-related examples for use in science teaching
  - New knowledge generated in part by student interns

- **PARTNERS**
  - Apply knowledge in science-based decision making in agriculture

**ACTION**

- **STUDENTS**
  - Graduate from UTPA with skills in agricultural sciences or education
  - Obtain career positions or pursue graduate studies in agriculture-related sciences
  - Use learning to make positive impacts in local community

- **FACULTY**
  - Apply learning in HS classes
  - Pursue funding to expand experiential learning programs

- **PARTNERS**
  - Apply knowledge in science-based decision making in agriculture

**CONDITIONS**

- **STUDENTS**
  - Pool of Hispanic graduates with knowledge and skills for careers and studies in agriculture
  - Development of Professionals and Citizens that make positive impacts to local food systems

- **FACULTY**
  - Improved mentoring for HS and UTPA students

- **PARTNERS**
  - Positive impacts to agriculture problems