To help individuals form a deeper understanding of a civic issue so that their contributions are more valuable. To layer these contributions back into the original news article so that the narrative and data presentation continually improve for people just entering the discussion.

Charate the current state of data-centered discussion by analyzing the past ten years of online commenting on three popular news websites.

Develop and compare scaffolding techniques based on data literacy education that would orient people to offer data-centered observations, critiques, and improvements.

Conduct controlled experiments to evaluate how these scaffolds affect personal outcomes like comprehension and data literacy, discussion behavior such as reciprocity, and community outcomes including polarization.

Develop and evaluate novel online discussion technology through real-world deployments in a project-based classroom focused on climate change and as part of a civic design competition.

All research products - including data sets, analysis methods, and source code - will be made available to other researchers exploring online discourse, data science, visualization, and civic design.
From: Francine Busby  
Subject: Congratulations on your grant!  
Date: July 2, 2020 at 11:13:43 AM PDT  
To: Steven Dow

Dear Dr. Dow,

On behalf of Congressman Mike Levin, I want to congratulate you on your grant award. We have been notified by the National Science Foundation that the Division of Information and Intelligent Systems awarded a grant in the amount of $499,373.00 for your research project titled "Scaffolding Data-Centered Interactions in Online Civil Discussions".

While we don't understand all the details of the science and mathematics, we do know that your work is very important and will have an impact on many lives. We also appreciate the contributions that you are making to our vibrant regional research community and to our local economy.

Rep. Levin understands and values the scope and quality of the research being done by you and your colleagues in our region. I'm also glad to share that Rep. Levin has signed an appropriations letter requesting $44.7 billion for NIH, a $3 billion increase.

We wish you great success,

Francine Busby  
District Director  
U.S. Congressman Mike Levin (CA-49)  
760-599-5000  
2204 El Camino Real, suite 314  
Oceanside, CA 92054

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE  
MIKE LEVIN  
Proudly Serving California's 49th District

Sign up for updates HERE.