

Recruitment email

Dear first name,

You have been identified as a current or former student member of a SoTL research project team. We are conducting a research study about what students learn from participating in research project teams. As a part of this study we wanted to invite you to participate in a voluntary focus group discussion where you would talk about what you did as a member of the research team and what you learned by being a part of that research project.

The focus group discussion will take about 60 minutes and we will hold the conversation over a lunch that will be provided for all the participants. The information you share will be confidential between you and the researchers. All of our findings will be reported in the aggregate and you will not be able to be identified, even if we use your ideas and statements in any presentations or publications that result from this focus group meeting.

Please feel free to contact either of us with questions about this research study or your involvement with it.

Please let us know by _____ if you are able to attend.

Thanks!

Phyllis McCluskey-Titus

Associate Professor

Educational Administration and Foundations

Kathleen McKinney

Professor Emeritus

Sociology

INFORMED CONSENT

Student Focus Group Interview

I am volunteering for a research project about student learning from participation on a SoTL research project team. If I choose not to participate for any reason, there is no penalty. If I choose to participate and then decide at some point in the future not to participate, I may withdraw consent without any type of penalty.

This research involves:

- 1) A 60 minute focus group discussion with other students that will be audiotaped. [These tapes will be transcribed and data stored on a flashdrive and on two different computer hard drives. The interviewer will keep the interview data until the research and associated products are completed.]

There are minimal risks associated with this study because it is confidential but not anonymous and the focus group questions are both personally and academically related. Risks may include learning something about other students' experiences with the research project that you did not have and wish you had. What participants say in the group discussion will be heard by other students but participants can limit their responses as they choose to minimize that potential risk.

Others may benefit by hearing about your experiences with this SoTL research project. You may benefit by reflecting and discussing you own learning with other students. No one except the researchers will have access to the interview data or audio tapes.

You **are not obligated to respond to questions you do not wish to answer and** may withdraw consent for any reason at any time if concerns arise as a result of your participation in this **voluntary** research study.

I may contact the researcher at any time with questions about this study or to withdraw from participation. Phyllis McCluskey-Titus, EAF 5900, Illinois State University, Normal, IL 61790-5900. 309.438.5989 pamclu2@ilstu.edu. I can also contact the Illinois State University Research Ethics and Compliance Office 309.438.2520 and/or rec@ilstu.edu if I have questions about my rights as a subject of research.

I attest that I am at least 18 years of age and voluntarily give my consent that I will participate in the research for the Student Focus Group Interview Project.

Student signature: _____

Printed name of student: _____

I voluntarily consent to participate knowing that the focus group discussion will be audio recorded.

Student signature: _____

Printed name of student: _____

Date: _____

Signature of researcher: _____

