

IRB Exempt  
Date: 4/30/2015  
Protocol # ARC EDU-015-106



### Participation Letter

Title of Study: Stakeholders Perception of Student Attendance and Behaviors Within a Ninth-Grade Academy

Principal investigator  
Earnest Evans, Jr.  
522 AV Hatten Road  
Hattiesburg, Ms. 39401  
(601) 270-4264

Co-investigator  
Isolda Levina Ed.D  
c/o Applied Research Center  
Fischler School of Education  
1750 NE 167th Street  
North Miami Beach, FL 33162  
800-986-3223, Ext. 28500

Institutional Review Board  
Nova Southeastern University  
Office of Grants and Contracts  
(954) 262-5369/Toll Free: 866-499-0790  
IRB@nsu.nova.edu

Site Information  
Hattiesburg High School  
301 Hutchinson, Avenue  
Hattiesburg, Ms. 39401  
(601) 544-0811

**Description of Study:** Earnest Evans, Jr. is a doctoral student at Nova Southeastern University engaged in research for the purpose of satisfying a requirement for a Doctor of Education degree. The purpose of this study is to acquire and analyze key stakeholder perceptions involving the efficacy of the behavior and attendance components of the ninth-grade academy within the high school study site. To achieve this purpose, school administrators, teachers, and 18-year old, 12th-grade students who have completed the academy and three subsequent grade levels to meet graduation requirements will be asked to respond to a questionnaire. By achieving this goal, the researcher expects to develop a broad understanding of the efficacy of the intervention within the research setting. If you agree to participate, you will be asked to complete an online questionnaire. The researcher will upload each of the questionnaires to SurveyMonkey (2014) a secure website the day prior to recruiting candidates for participation in the study.

**IRB Exempt**

**Date:** 4/30/2015

**Protocol #** ARC EDU-015-106

Even though the researcher will request participants to complete their respective questionnaires within a 10-day period of time, the instruments will remain accessible to participants for a period of 2 weeks to ensure a larger response rate. These collective perceptions will be useful in developing a broad understanding of the efficacy of the behavior and attendance components within the research setting.

**Risks/Benefits to the Participant:** There may be minimal risk involved in participating in this study. There are no direct benefits for agreeing to be in this study. Please understand that although you may not benefit directly from participation in this study, you have the opportunity to enhance, identify, develop, and provide interventions necessary to support future students as they transition into the high school setting. If you have any concerns about the risks/benefits of participating in this study, you can contact the investigators and/or the university's human research oversight board (the Institutional Review Board or IRB) at the numbers listed above.

**Cost and Payments to the Participant:** There is no cost for participation in this study. Participation is completely voluntary and no payment will be provided.

**Confidentiality:** Information obtained in this study is strictly confidential unless law requires disclosure. All data will be collected via SurkeyMonkey(2014) and the data received will be secured in a locked filing cabinet. Your name will not be used in the reporting of information in publications or conference presentations.

**Participant's Right to Withdraw from the Study:** You have the right to refuse to participate in this study and the right to withdraw from the study at any time without penalty.

**I have read this letter and I fully understand the contents of this document and voluntarily consent to participate. All of my questions concerning this research have been answered. If I have any questions in the future about this study the investigator listed above or his/her staff will answer them.**

**I understand that the completion of this questionnaire implies my consent to participate in this study.**

Abraham S. Fischler School of Education  
1750 NE 167th Street · North Miami Beach, Florida 33162-3017  
(954) 262-8500 · 800-986-3223, ext. 28500

