

Clarkson University
Documentation of Assent to Participate in Research

Project Title: Building Rural Aspirations In Neuroscience with Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (BRAIN-STEM)

Researchers: Dr. Kathleen Kavanagh, Dr. Lennart Johns, Dr. Robert Dowman.

Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval number: 24-34 **Approval valid until:** 2/25/2025

Summary of the study: The goal of this study is to present an educational module to rural Northern New York high school students on the Neuroscience of Drug Use and Addiction. This module will be presented in a 5-day Summer Camp and a full year Afterschool program. Students can participate in the Summer Camp or Afterschool program alone, or both.

What to expect: In the 5-day Summer Camp you will learn about drug use patterns in the U.S., the reasons why people use drugs, changes in the brain that cause addiction, and how addiction is treated. We will use teaching methods that have been shown to increase academic and problem-solving skills. The Camp will be very interactive, so that you will be given the opportunity to work in small groups exploring the topics and learn how the basic science of drug use and addiction is related to addiction treatments. The Summer Camps will also include a number of interesting activities, such as hearing from health care professionals who treat individuals who are addicted to drugs, and field trips to addiction treatment clinics.

In the Afterschool program you will work in teams to propose a solution to a health-related problem associated with Drug Use and Addiction. Ideally this problem will come from the information learned in the Summer Camp, but it does not have to be. The Afterschool program will also include activities aimed at improving your academic ability, as well as field trips to Clarkson and elsewhere that include academic enhancement workshops and visits to health care facilities so that you can interact with health care professionals, such as doctors, nurses, physician assistants, and occupational therapists.

To evaluate the effectiveness of the Summer Camp and Afterschool programs you will fill out surveys related to your career interests, how you solve problems, and how you feel about science. We will look at your school records to see if our program impacts your academic performance. You will also be asked to attend a focus group at the end of the program. During the focus group we will talk with a group of students to find out what they liked about the program, what they didn't like, and get suggestions for improvement.

The time commitment for these programs is 5 consecutive days, 6 h/day, for the Summer Camp, and 1 day/week for 1-2 h/day for the full school year in the Afterschool program.

If you have any questions about this research, you may contact the project Principal Investigator, Dr. Kathleen Kavanagh, kkavanag@clarkson.edu.

Risks and discomforts to you if you take part in this study: This study involves established educational methods delivered in established educational settings, and as such poses no greater risk than would be expected in everyday life. In order to prevent your academic records and responses to the surveys and focus groups from becoming public, they will be kept confidential (that is, only the project team will know your results). All results presented in any publications or presentations will be in aggregate form (i.e., several students' data will be combined) so your identity cannot be determined.

Benefits to you if you take part in this study. By participating in this program you will receive a number of important benefits: First, you will learn important health-related information pertaining to drug use and addiction that you can use in your everyday life. Second, you will be made aware of interesting and fulfilling careers in the health care professions. Third, you will learn academic and problem-solving skills that will help you succeed in college.

What you will receive when you take part in this study: There is no payment or other form of compensation for participating in this program.

What will happen to the information collected in this study. The information collected will be kept confidential as much as permitted by law. The data will be stored in either locked cabinets (paper copies) or stored in password

protected computers (electronic data). Only the project team and the external evaluator will have access to this information, all of whom have extensive training on the importance of participant confidentiality. In presenting the results of this study care will be taken to only present aggregate data (i.e., data from many students will be combined), and we will take steps to ensure that individual students cannot be identified.

What rights you have when you take part in this study: Participation in this research is voluntary. Deciding not to take part, or to stop being a part of this research will result in no penalty, fine or loss of benefits that you otherwise have a right to. If you have questions about your rights as a research subject or if you wish to report any harm, injury, risk or other concern, please contact the Clarkson University Institutional Review Board (IRB) for human subjects research at irb@clarkson.edu or (315) 268-6475.

Conflict of Interest: The researchers have no financial interest in performing this study.

<for students filling out the online assent form>:

Assent: Please enter your name below and click on the box to show you have had the purpose of this research explained and you have been informed of what to expect and your rights. You should have all your questions answered to your satisfaction. Clicking on the box shows that you agree to take part in this research. You will be given a copy of this assent form to keep for your records.

Name of Student _____

Date: _____

[BOX GOES HERE]

<for students filling out the paper copy of the assent:>

Assent: Please sign below to show you have had the purpose of this research explained and you have been informed of what to expect and your rights. You should have all your questions answered to your satisfaction. Your signature below shows that you agree to take part in this research. You will be given a copy of this assent form to keep for your records.

Signature of Student _____

Date: _____

Name of Student _____

Signature of researcher obtaining assent: _____

Date: _____