

Clarkson University
Documentation of Informed Consent 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 students 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 students 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 that treat individuals that are addicted to drugs, and field trips to addiction treatment clinics.

In the Afterschool program, students will work in teams to propose a solution to a health-related problem associated with Drug Use and Addiction. Ideally this problem will have 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 student academic and problem-solving abilities, as well as field trips to Clarkson and elsewhere that include academic enrichment workshops and visits to health care facilities so that students 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 students will fill out surveys related to their career interests, how they solve problems, and how they feel about Science. We will also look at student school records to see if our program impacts academic performance and retention. Students will also be asked to attend focus groups at the end of the project so we can find out what they liked about the program, what they didn't like, and suggestions for improvement.

The time commitment for these programs are 5 consecutive days 6 h/day for the Summer Camp, and 1 day/week for 1-2 h/day for the full school year for 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 for students taking part in this study: This study involves established educational methods delivered in established educational settings and, as such, poses no greater risk to the students than would be expected in everyday life. In order to prevent the students' academic records and responses to the surveys and focus groups from becoming public, they will be kept confidential (i.e., only the project team will know the student's data), and all results presented in any publications or presentations will be in aggregate form (i.e., several students data combined) so that individual participant identities cannot be determined.

Benefits for students taking part in this study. Students who participate in this program will receive a number of important benefits: First, the students will learn important health-related information pertaining to drug use and addiction that they can use in their everyday lives. Second, the students will be made aware of interesting and fulfilling careers in the health care professions. Third, the students will learn academic and problem-solving skills that will help them succeed in college.

What students will receive for taking part in this study: There is no remuneration for participating in this program.

What will happen to the information collected in this study. The information collected will be kept confidential (i.e., only the project team will know the student's data) 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 and your child have when taking 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 the student otherwise has a right to. If you have questions about your student's 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 parents filling out the online informed consent form>:

Informed Consent: Please enter your name and the name of your child 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 you and your child's rights. You should have all your questions answered to your satisfaction. Clicking on the box shows that you agree to let your child take part in this research. By clicking on the box you also attest that you are at least 18 years old. You will be given a copy of this consent form to keep for your records.

Name of Parent/Guardian _____ **Date:** _____

Name of the Student the Parent/Guardian is signing for: _____

[BOX GOES HERE]

<for parents filling out the paper copy of the informed consent:>

Informed Consent: 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 and your child's rights. You should have all your questions answered to your satisfaction. Your signature below shows that you agree to have your child take part in this research. By signing below you also attest that you are at least 18 years old. You will be given a copy of this consent form to keep for your records.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ **Date:** _____

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Name of the Student the Parent/Guardian is signing for: _____

Signature of researcher obtaining informed consent: _____ **Date:** _____