

## **Consent Form for Participation in a Research Study:**

Middle Schoolers Perceptions of Postsecondary Career and Technical Education (CTE)

### **Description of the Research and Your Participation**

Your student is invited to participate in a research study conducted by Dr. Melita Pope Mitchell from Johnson C. Smith University regarding middle schoolers perceptions of postsecondary career and technical education (CTE).

#### ***What is Postsecondary CTE?***

Postsecondary CTE are courses and programs completed after high school graduation that “focus on the skills and knowledge required for specific jobs or fields of work. The occupational fields included in this definition are: agriculture and natural resources; business support, management, and finance; communications; computer and information sciences; construction; consumer services; education; engineering and architecture; health sciences; manufacturing; marketing; public, social, and protective services; repair; and transportation.” (National Center for Education Statistics)

Research has indicated that middle school is an important time to expose students to a variety career options in order to begin planning for postsecondary education. Research also indicates that providing middle school students with career exploration options can positively influence school engagement which tends to decline after students leave elementary school.

The purpose of this project is to gain a clearer understanding of student perceptions of their choices after high school as they relate to postsecondary CTE. The results of this project will support Johnson C. Smith University’s understanding of how to best support students in their postsecondary career pathway. To facilitate this effort, middle school students from Union County Public Schools are invited to complete the electronic survey. Your student was selected as a participant because they were identified as a Union County Public School Middle School Student.

### **Risks and Discomforts**

There are no known risks associated with this research. The records of this study will be kept private. All resulting reports that are made public will not include any information that will make it possible to identify your student. Research records will be kept in a secure file, and only the researcher will have access to the records.

### **Potential Benefits**

The benefits of this study could possibly include:

- Increased understanding of postsecondary options.
- Establishments of partnerships between K-12, higher education and industry.
- Increase access to postsecondary pathways to success

**Protection of Confidentiality**

Research records will be stored securely, and only the researcher will have access to the records. The information will not be shared publicly. Data will remain confidential and used solely for the study. To maintain participant anonymity and confidentiality, the researcher will remove all identifying and related information associated with the participant throughout the study. After the completion of the research study, the researcher will permanently dispose of all primary records related to the study.

**Voluntary Participation**

Your student’s participation in this research study is voluntary. You may choose for them not to participate, and you may withdraw your consent for them to participate at any time. You nor your student will not be penalized in any way should you decide not to participate or to withdraw from this study.

**Contact Information**

The survey link will be posted on your student’s school website should you wish to review it. In addition, you may contact your student’s school administrator if you have any questions or concerns. Additionally, if you have any questions or concerns about this study or if any problems arise, you may contact the researcher, Dr. Melita Pope Mitchell at 704-378-3593 or [mmitchell@jcsu.edu](mailto:mmitchell@jcsu.edu).

I have read this consent form and I have been given the opportunity to ask questions.

No, I do not consent to my student participating in this study.

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Name

Date