

## **Informed Consent for Focus Group Participation: Post-High School Options of Cedar Valley Youth**

### **Investigators**

Dr. Peter Nash, Assistant Professor of Religion, Department of Religion and Philosophy, Wartburg College  
Dr. Cynthia Bane, Assistant Professor of Psychology, Department of Social Sciences, Wartburg College  
Ms. Rocio Ayard-Ochoa, Wartburg College undergraduate researcher  
Ms. Nicole Erspamer, Wartburg College undergraduate researcher

### **Purpose of the Project**

The purpose of this research is to examine parents' impressions of post-high school educational options (college, technical school, military) for Cedar Valley middle school students and parents' impressions of different types of colleges and universities.

### **Explanation of Procedures**

If you decide to participate in this study, you will take part in a focus group discussion with 5-7 other participants, which will be led by a focus group facilitator (Rocio Ayard-Ochoa). A focus group assistant/observer (Nicole Erspamer) will also be present during the focus group session. We will audio-tape the session and make a written copy for later analysis.

The questions that the focus group facilitator will ask will address your opinions about the quality of preparation that Cedar Valley youth are receiving for leadership in their communities, your thoughts about the training and educational options that will be available for your middle school student after he/she graduates from high school, and your impressions of specific postsecondary educational institutions in the Cedar Valley. You also will complete a brief survey that will request information about your age, occupation, religious affiliation, and educational background. The focus group session will last approximately 1 ½ to 2 hours.

### **Confidentiality**

The information collected in this study will remain confidential. This means that your identity as a participant will not be revealed to people other than the investigators listed above. Any references to information that would reveal your identity will be removed or disguised prior to the preparation of the research reports and publications. All research materials will be kept in a locked office at Wartburg College. All audio recordings will be erased at the completion of the study.

### **Risks and Discomforts**

We do not anticipate that participation in this study will pose physical or psychological risks beyond what you encounter in everyday life. However, if you are uncomfortable answering a particular question, you are free to refuse to answer the question, and you are free to quit the study at any time.

### **Benefits**

You will have the opportunity to win a small prize in a drawing. In addition, the results from this study will add to knowledge about parents' opinions about postsecondary training and education. The final results of the study will be shared with representatives from the Waterloo Community Schools. The results of this study could improve Cedar Valley postsecondary educational institutions as post-high school options for Cedar Valley youth.

### **Freedom to Withdraw Participation**

Participation in this study is voluntary; you will not be penalized if you decide not to participate. You are free to withdraw consent and end your participation in this project at any time.

### **Contact Information**

If you have concerns about this study or would like to have a copy of the results after we have completed the project, please contact Dr. Peter Nash at 352-8657 or Dr. Cynthia Bane at 352-8313. You can also contact the Human and Animal Research Review Committee at Wartburg College (Dr. Ed Westen, 352-8397) if you have concerns about this study.

**Your signature below shows that you understand the above and agree to participate in this focus group discussion.**

Please print your name \_\_\_\_\_

Witness signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please sign your name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_