Informed Consent Document

TITLE OF RESEARCH: Closing the Gap in Higher Education Using Academic Advising: Perceptions of the African American Male

IRB PROTOCOL: 2010-0185

INVESTIGATOR: Terry L. Aaron

SPONSOR: University of Texas at Arlington

Explanation of Procedures

- The purpose of this study is to examine African American male college students’ perceptions of academic advising. As well as, examine the role of academic advising on the participation and success of African American males as described by the “Closing the Gaps” Initiative.
- The study involves research that is designed to collect data.
- A survey will be distributed to an anticipated total of 300 participants (including the individual face-to-face interviews). African American male college students will be surveyed to investigate their perceptions of academic advising in regards to participation and success. In addition to the survey, ten individual face-to-face interviews will be conducted to obtain qualitative data that will provide significant insight on the perceptions of African American males, the problem of attrition and possible solutions. The face-to-face interviews will be recorded and transcribed.
- The amount of time involved in study participation is approximately 1 hour.

We are asking you to take part in a research study. This research study will examine African American males and their perceptions of academic advising. One objective of the study is to bring attention to the ongoing African American male retention crisis in higher education. A second objective is to develop a framework that would ameliorate the relationship between African American males and their college advisors and higher education institutions. The third objective is to develop policy recommendations to improve the participation and success rates of African American males in higher education.

If you participate in the study, you will be asked to complete a survey. You may be asked to participate in an individual interview.

Risks and Discomforts

- There are no foreseeable risks or discomforts to the participant.
Benefits

- You may not benefit directly from taking part in this study. However, this study may help us better understand how to retain minority students in college.

Alternatives

- One alternative is always possible: to not participate in the study.

Confidentiality

Information obtained about you for this study will be kept private to the extent allowed by law. However, research information that identifies you may be shared with UTA and TCC’s Institutional Review Boards (IRB) and others who are responsible for ensuring compliance with laws and regulations related to research, including people on behalf of University of Texas at Arlington.

All study related materials, data and consent forms will be kept at UTA in University Hall on the 5th floor in room 509. The address is 601 S. Nedderman Dr. 511 University Hall Arlington Texas 76019. Copies of data and the signed consent forms will be kept under lock and key in my office at TCC’s Southeast Campus. The address is 2100 Southeast Parkway Arlington Texas 76018. The data will be kept for a minimum of three years at both locations after all study procedures have been completed including data analysis.

The audio recordings will be transcribed (transcribed means that a typed transcription will be made from the recording). The data will be maintained for a minimum of 3 years after transcription and that the audio file itself will be kept for future research purposes.

Refusal or Withdrawal without Penalty

- No negative consequences will be incurred if a participant decides to withdraw from the research.
- The participant can either return or destroy the survey anytime during the survey administration.
- The participant can also decide to terminate the individual interview at any time, if applicable.

Your taking part in this study is your choice. There will be no penalty if you decide not to be in the study. If you decide not to be in the study, you will not lose any benefits you are otherwise owed. You are free to withdraw from this research study at any time. Your choice to leave the study will not affect your relationship with this institution.
You may be removed from the study without your consent if the sponsor ends the study, or if you are not following the study rules.

**Cost of Participation**
- There is no cost to the participant.

**Payment for Participation in Research**
- There is no compensation for participation.

**Questions**
- For Questions regarding the research study please contact Terry L. Aaron at 817-515-3023 or UTA IRB 817-272-3723.
- For questions, concerns, or complaints about the research in case the research staff cannot be reached or the participant wishes to talk to someone independent of the research staff. Please contact the IRB

**Legal Rights**
You are not waiving any of your legal rights by signing this informed consent document.

**Storage of Surveys**
Please initial your choice(s) below:
- ___ I agree to allow my survey to be kept and used for future research.
- ___ I do not agree to allow my survey or interview to be kept and used for future research.
- ___ I wish to be notified if my survey is going to be used for research. Phone number

**Signatures**
- Your signature below indicates that you agree to participate in this study. You will receive a copy of this signed document.

Signature of Participant

Date

Page 3 of 4