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Appendix A: The College Students' Events Survey

Hello, my name is Jennifer Conlan. I am a graduate student in the Higher Education and Student Affairs program in the College of Human Resources and Education at Virginia Tech. Your name has been randomly selected to participate in this study. If you choose to participate, you will be asked to complete the brief survey that appears at the end of the message. It should take about 20 minutes to complete. If you participate, you will be eligible to receive \$25 (see details below).

This research project involves limited risks for participants. The only real risk of participation is that one may experience some difficult emotions when recalling important events in your life. If you should experience such emotions, the researcher is available to help deal with those issues.

If you are willing to participate, please respond electronically to this survey by November 8, 1998. If you respond by November 8, 1998, your name will be entered into a drawing. Twelve names will be selected and each person will win \$25. Your chances of receiving the \$25 will depend on how many people respond to the survey, but only 300 students have been selected to participate, so you stand at least a one in 25 chance of receiving the incentive.

All responses will be held in confidence. My research director and I will be the only people who review the survey responses. In addition, results will be reported in aggregate form only so you will not be identified in any way in the final report. Finally, you are free to withdraw from the study at any time without penalty. Simply contact me and your responses will be destroyed and will not be included in data analysis.

This research project has been approved, as required, by the Institutional Review Board for Research Involving Human Subjects at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. By responding to the survey, you are stating that you understand the scope of the study and are voluntarily participating in this project. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at 231-2679 or my research director, Dr. Joan Hirt, at 231-9700. Thank you.

The College Students' Events Survey

This study is designed to explore the personal and world events that have shaped the lives of current college students. Personal events include events you experienced personally, through your family, your friends, or local community. World events include events that occurred at the state, national, or international level to which you were exposed while growing up. In each of the two sections below, you will find space to list events that have influenced your life. For each event, please write a brief description of how that event influenced your life.

I. Personal Events

Please list five personal events (events that you experienced personally, through your family, your friends, or your local community) that have influenced your life. How has each of these events influenced your life?

Personal Event 1:

How would you describe the effect of this event on your life?

_____ Positive

_____ Negative

_____ Neutral

Please explain this effect.

Personal Event 2:

How would you describe the effect of this event on your life?

_____ Positive

_____ Negative

_____ Neutral

Please explain this effect.

Personal Event 3:

How would you describe the effect of this event on your life?

_____ Positive

_____ Negative

_____ Neutral

Please explain this effect.

Personal Event 4:

How would you describe the effect of this event on your life?

_____ Positive

_____ Negative

_____ Neutral

Please explain this effect.

Personal Event 5:

How would you describe the effect of this event on your life?

_____ Positive

_____ Negative

_____ Neutral

Please explain this effect.

II. World events

In this section, please list five world events (events that occurred at the state, national, or international level to which you were exposed while growing up) that have influenced your life. For each event, please briefly describe how it influenced you.

World Event 1:

How would you describe the effect of this event on your life?

_____ Positive

_____ Negative

_____ Neutral

Please explain this effect.

World Event 2:

How would you describe the effect of this event on your life?

_____ Positive

_____ Negative

_____ Neutral

Please explain this effect.

World Event 3:

How would you describe the effect of this event on your life?

_____ Positive

_____ Negative

_____ Neutral

Please explain this effect.

World Event 4:

How would you describe the effect of this event on your life?

_____ Positive

_____ Negative

_____ Neutral

Please explain this effect.

World Event 5:

How would you describe the effect of this event on your life?

_____ Positive

_____ Negative

_____ Neutral

Please explain this effect.

III. Demographic Information (Please check one choice for each item.)

Age: 17_____

18_____

19_____

20_____

21_____

Other_____

Race: African American/Black_____

Asian American/Pacific Islander_____

Hispanic_____

Native American_____

White/Caucasian_____

Other_____

Gender: Female_____

Male_____

Citizenship: US_____

Other_____

Please respond by returning this survey via e-mail (using the reply function) to jconlan@vt.edu. If you return a fully completed survey by November 8, 1998, your name will be entered in a drawing for one of 12 \$25 prizes. Thank you for participating!