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Appendix A:  
The College Choice Survey

## The College Choice Survey

Indicate the responses which best match your level of agreement by placing an X in the appropriate space.

SA= strongly agree      A= agree      D= disagree      SD= strongly disagree      N= no opinion

**When considering which colleges to apply to, I considered:**

	SA	A	D	SD	N
1. Size of college/university	___	___	___	___	___
2. Location of college/university	___	___	___	___	___
3. National reputation of college/university	___	___	___	___	___
4. Majors offered	___	___	___	___	___
5. Number and variety of extracurricular organizations	___	___	___	___	___
6. Appearance of campus	___	___	___	___	___
7. Facilities available on campus (student centers, gym, etc.)	___	___	___	___	___
8. Technology available on campus	___	___	___	___	___
9. Tuition	___	___	___	___	___
10. College effort to communicate with me (letters, pamphlets, high school visits, etc.)	___	___	___	___	___
11. Availability of financial aid	___	___	___	___	___
12. Impression of campus	___	___	___	___	___
13. Diversity of student body	___	___	___	___	___
14. Social activities	___	___	___	___	___
15. Distance from home	___	___	___	___	___
16. Expectations of family and friends	___	___	___	___	___
17. Financial obligations to family	___	___	___	___	___
18. Religious beliefs	___	___	___	___	___
19. Prospect of getting a job after graduating	___	___	___	___	___
20. Opportunity to pursue an advanced degree	___	___	___	___	___

**When deciding which college to attend, I considered:**

21. Size of college/university	___	___	___	___	___
22. Location of college/university	___	___	___	___	___
23. National reputation of college/university	___	___	___	___	___
24. Majors offered	___	___	___	___	___
25. Number and variety of extracurricular organizations	___	___	___	___	___
26. Appearance of campus	___	___	___	___	___
27. Facilities available on campus (student centers, gym, etc.)	___	___	___	___	___
28. Technology available on campus	___	___	___	___	___
29. Tuition	___	___	___	___	___
30. College effort to communicate with me (letters, pamphlets, high school visits, etc.)	___	___	___	___	___
31. Availability of financial aid	___	___	___	___	___
32. Impression of campus	___	___	___	___	___
33. Diversity of student body	___	___	___	___	___
34. Social activities	___	___	___	___	___
35. Distance from home	___	___	___	___	___
36. Expectations of family and friends	___	___	___	___	___
37. Financial obligations to family	___	___	___	___	___
38. Religious beliefs	___	___	___	___	___
39. Prospect of getting a job after graduating	___	___	___	___	___
40. Opportunity to pursue an advanced degree	___	___	___	___	___

**Continued on back**

Indicate the responses which best match your level of agreement by placing an X in the appropriate space.

1= did not rely on opinion    2=rarely relied on    3=relied on somewhat heavily    4=relied on heavily    5=no opinion

**Please rate the extent to which you relied on information/support from the following when you were considering which college to apply to:**

	1	2	3	4	5
41. Parents	___	___	___	___	___
42. Family members (other than parents)	___	___	___	___	___
43. High school guidance counselors	___	___	___	___	___
44. High school teachers	___	___	___	___	___
45. College admissions advisors	___	___	___	___	___
46. Community members	___	___	___	___	___
47. Friends	___	___	___	___	___
48. College and university mailings	___	___	___	___	___
49. Phone calls from colleges and universities	___	___	___	___	___
50. College guide books	___	___	___	___	___

**Please rate the extent to which you relied on information/support from the following when you were considering which college to attend:**

	1	2	3	4	5
51. Parents	___	___	___	___	___
52. Family members (other than parents)	___	___	___	___	___
53. High school guidance counselors	___	___	___	___	___
54. High school teachers	___	___	___	___	___
55. College admissions advisors	___	___	___	___	___
56. Community members	___	___	___	___	___
57. Friends	___	___	___	___	___
58. College and university mailings	___	___	___	___	___
59. Phone calls from colleges and universities	___	___	___	___	___
60. College guide books	___	___	___	___	___

**Demographic Information**

Please circle correct answer.

It is very important that you complete this portion of the survey.

**Gender:**            Female                            Male

**Year:**    Freshmen                            Sophomore                            Junior                            Senior

Other (please specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

**Ethnic Background:**

          Mexican                            Puerto Rican                            Central American                            South American

Other (please specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

**Did your parent(s) or the person(s) who raised you attend college?**

\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_ No

Thank you again for your participation. Remember to return this questionnaire in the enclosed postage-paid envelope.

Please also remember to send in your informed consent, which is your entry form for the \$100 drawing prize!

Appendix B:

Cover Letter

703 Appalachian Drive Apt. 9  
Blacksburg, VA 24060  
(540) 953-1740  
Email address: jranero@vt.edu

Dear Virginia Tech student,

My name is Jessica Ranero and I am a graduate student in the Higher Education and Student Affairs program at Virginia Tech. I am currently conducting research on the factors that influence Hispanic students when they conduct a college search.

I am writing you because I would like to invite you to participate in the study. As a participant, you would be asked to complete the enclosed survey. The survey consists of questions about your college choice process.

As an incentive to participate in the study, all students who complete and return the survey by **February 8, 1999**, will be entered in a drawing for a \$100 prize. All you need to do to be entered in the drawing is to fully complete the enclosed survey and return it in the self addressed stamped envelope I have provided you by February 8th. You must also include with the survey the signed informed consent form that will serve as your entry form into the drawing. The winner will be chosen randomly and notified on February 22, 1999.

Your participation in the study would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, you can contact me at the phone number listed above. You can also email me at jranero@vt.edu.

Sincerely,

Jessica J. Ranero  
Researcher

Appendix C:

Informed Consent for Participants of Investigative Projects

## **Informed Consent for Participants of Investigative Projects**

**Title of Project:** The Factors that Influence the College Choice of Hispanic College Students.

**Investigator:** Jessica J. Ranero

### **I. The Purpose of this Research**

The purpose of this study is to examine the factors that influence the college choice process for Hispanic students. The study is designed to gain a better understanding of how Hispanics make decisions about higher education. All students who are currently enrolled at Virginia Tech and who identify themselves as Hispanic are being asked to participate in the study.

### **II. Procedures**

As a participant, you will be asked to complete the College Choice Survey and return it, along with the informed consent, in the enclosed self addressed and stamped envelope by February 8, 1999.

### **III. Risks**

There are very minimal risks associated with participation in this study. It is possible that you may experience some confusion about your own college choice process after completing the survey. If this occurs, please feel free to contact the researcher who will assist you in dealing with these concerns.

### **IV. Benefits of this Project**

One benefit of participating in this project is that you will contribute to the understanding of the college choice process for Hispanic students. The findings may assist colleges and universities in their recruitment process by providing them with information about what factors influence the college choices of Hispanic students.

Another benefit of the project is that by participating, you become eligible to participate in a drawing for a \$100 prize.

No promise of guarantee of benefits have been made to encourage you to participate.

You may contact the researcher at a later time for a summary of the research results.

### **V. Confidentiality**

The confidentiality of your response will be maintained. The researcher will maintain confidentiality by separating your informed consent form and your survey upon immediately receiving them. This will ensure that your responses on the survey are confidential and that you will be entered in the drawing for the \$100 incentive. In addition, the researcher will destroy all surveys one year after completion of the study.

### **VI. Compensation**

As a participants of the study, you have the opportunity to participate in a drawing for a \$100 prize. You are entered into the drawing if you complete and return the survey and the informed consent by February 8, 1999. One person will be randomly selected to receive the prize and that person will be notified February 22, 1999.

**Continued on back**

**VII. Freedom to Withdraw**

You are free to withdraw from the study at any time. If you wish to withdraw, just contact Jessica Ranero at 953-1740 or jranero@vt.edu. You are also free to not answer any questions that you choose not to respond to. There is no penalty for unanswered questions.

**VIII. Approval of Research**

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 and by the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies.

**IX. Subject’s Responsibilities**

I voluntarily agree to participate in this study. I understand I have the following responsibilities:

1. To complete the College Choice Survey.
2. To read and sign this Informed Consent form.
3. To return both the survey and the informed consent in the enclosed self addressed and stamped envelope by February 8, 1999.

**X. Subject’s Permission**

I have read and understand the Informed Consent and conditions of this project. I have had all my questions answered. I hereby acknowledge the above and give my voluntary consent for participation in this project.

If I participate, I may withdraw at any time without penalty. I agree to abide by the rules of the project.

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature Date

Should I have any questions about this research or its conduct, I may contact:

- |                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| Jessica Ranero    | 953-1740 |
| Investigator      | Phone    |
| Joan Hirt         | 231-9700 |
| Faculty Advisor   | Phone    |
| Tom Hurd          | 231-9359 |
| Chair, IRB        | Phone    |
| Research Division |          |

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**In order to be entered into the drawing for the \$100 prize, you must complete the following information.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you!

# Jessica Janet Ranero

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**Current Address:**

703 Appalachian Drive Apt. 9  
Blacksburg, VA 24060  
(540) 953-1740  
www.vt.edu:10021/J/jranero/Ranerohome.html

**Permanent Address:**

4309 North Washington Blvd.  
Arlington, VA 22201  
(703) 527-0521  
jranero@vt.edu

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**Education****Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech)**

Blacksburg, VA  
Masters of Art in Education, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies,  
Concentration: Higher Education and Student Affairs, May 1999

- Thesis: The factors that influence the college choice of Hispanic students, Expected publication-May 1999.
- Grant awarded from Student Affairs Assessment and Research Committee.
- Submitted a proposal for the restructuring of the Transfer Student Orientation Program at Virginia Tech.

**Mary Washington College, Fredericksburg, VA**

Bachelor of Science, Psychology, May 1997

- Researched men and women's perceptions of good and evil.

**Experience****Office of the Dean of Students, Virginia Tech**

Blacksburg, VA

Graduate Assistant for Multicultural Programs, August 1997 to present.

- Gained experience in both the Black Cultural Center and the Multicultural Center.
- Served as Executive Assistant for Black History Month.
- Advised Black Organizations Council.
- Edited and published the Multicultural Programs Newsletter.
- Supervise workstudy students and volunteers.
- Serve as liaison between student organizations and Dean of Students Office.
- Assist with minority student recruitment efforts.
- Facilitate discussions and workshops about diversity.
- Develop and present leadership workshops.
- Create displays about multiculturalism.

**Office of the Dean of Students, Virginia Tech**

Blacksburg, VA

Chair of Virginia Tech's First Annual Hispanic Heritage Month Steering Committee,  
Spring 1998 to present.

- Initiated the establishment of the steering committee.
- Submitted and awarded grant for \$2,500 from the EOAA Office.
- Arranged events throughout the month such as faculty lunch discussions.
- Negotiated contract for keynote speaker.
- Managed the working budget for the month.
- Coordinated volunteers for events throughout the month.
- Created calendar and other forms of publicity for the month's events.

**Academic Advising Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, Virginia Tech**

Blacksburg, VA

Practicum Student, Fall Semester, 1998.

- Advised students majoring in Interdisciplinary Studies.
- Co-instructed Freshman Success Strategies course.
- Served as liaison for Interdisciplinary Studies interns.

**Career Services, Virginia Tech**

Blacksburg, VA

Practicum Student, Spring Semester, 1998.

- Presented workshops on cooperative education, summer jobs, and internships.
- Critiqued resumes and cover letters.
- Designed brochure about Career Services for Freshmen.

**Multicultural Center, Mary Washington College**

Fredericksburg, VA

Head Counselor for the Student Transition Program, Summers of 1996 and 1997.

- Supervised a staff of four counselors.
- Facilitated crisis intervention.
- Provided mentoring and tutoring for 25 incoming freshmen.
- Enforced policies of the program.
- Coordinated social and educational programs.

**Skills**Computer Skills

- Proficient with IBM PC and Macintosh
- Microsoft Office
- Netscape Gold
- Netscape Communicator Composer
- SPSS

Languages

- Fluent in Spanish

**Presentations**

- "Success Strategies for Minority Women Leaders in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century", Southwestern Virginia Student Leadership Conference, February, 1999.
- "Cultural Centers: Keeping Them Relevant", SACSA Conference, November, 1998.
- "Stepping Out of Your Comfort Zones: Creating a Multicultural Program", VASPA Conference, October 1997.
- "Men and Women's Perceptions of Good and Evil", Virginia Psychological Association Conference, Spring 1997.

**College Affiliations**

- Search Committee for Vice President for Multicultural Affairs at Virginia Tech.

**Activities**

- Project Success Facilitator, Spring 1999.
- National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, Member, 1998.
- American College Personnel Association, Member, 1998.
- Association for Student Development, Virginia Tech, Secretary, 1998.
- Psychology Department Student Representative, Mary Washington College, 1996-1997.
- Virginia Psychological Association, Student Member, 1996-1997.
- Admissions Tour Guide for Mary Washington College, 1994-1996.