Integrative Design-based Reform-oriented Educational Approach for Motivating Students (iDREAMS)

Principal Investigator Dr. Alex Repenning

PARTICIPANT INFORMED CONSENT FORM
Community College Student/Instructional Support
July 12, 2010

Please read the following material that explains this research study. Signing this form will indicate that you have been informed about the study and that you want to participate. We want you to understand what you are being asked to do and what risks and benefits—if any—are associated with the study. This should help you decide whether or not you want to participate in the study.

You are being asked to take part in a research project conducted by Alex Repenning, Ph.D., a faculty member in the University of Colorado at Boulder’s Department of Computer Science, 430 UCB, Boulder, CO 80309. Dr. Repenning can be reached at (303) 492-1349.

Project Description:

In this research study we will study how a game and STEM simulation design units used in middle school technology courses influence teachers’ and students’ attitudes towards computer science, game design, computer applications, and student learning with technology. The benefit of this study is that it addresses a critical national need to improve educational opportunities in the middle grades that increase student access to future careers in information technology. We expect this project to reveal important motivational factors for students that influence their academic and career decisions. You are being asked to be in this study because you are a community college student who has expressed an interest in learning more about iDREAMS instructional units and how such software is used with middle grades students. It is entirely your choice whether or not to participate in this study.

Procedures:

If you agree to take part in this study, you will be asked to participate in training conducted at either University of Colorado at Boulder or a local training site. You will be asked to complete an interview prior to the training. During the implementation of the one-week unit you may be asked to support student activities in one or more middle grades classrooms.

Participation will require one week of training, and up to 60 minutes per day during the unit implementation (one week) to support student activities and implementation of iDREAMS. Participation will take place at the training site and the computer lab. You may be asked to take part in a focus group after the implementation of the unit.

You will be asked questions about your prior experiences with information technology and computer science courses, and your conceptions of student learning with technology. Questions after the unit is implemented will focus on similar themes and will also address your opinions about student learning with technology.

Participation in this research may include interviews or focus groups which require video or audio taping. These tapes will be used for formative evaluation of the curriculum and validation of the
online survey responses. These recordings will be retained for 5 years after the conclusion of the study. Those individuals who will have access to these tapes will be members of the research team.

Risks and Discomforts:

Since the one-week module is offered as part of the participating schools’ regular IT course offerings, the only risk to you and your students are risks that are typically associated with the implementation of any new unit, as part of program improvement. You may experience some unexpected instructional challenges as you implement iDREAMS that are quite similar to the instructional challenges you would encounter with any new software that you were incorporating into your instructional program. Likewise, student risks are minimal and are limited to risks associated with implementing new curricula.

Benefits:

The benefits of being in this study are learning about principles for game design and connections to computer programming.

Source of Funding:

Funding for this study is being provided by the National Science Foundation, a federal agency that requires that data be collected in a form that permits for differences between men and women and races or ethnic groups to be analyzed.

Cost to Participant

There are no direct costs to you for participation in this study. You will be compensated for travel costs associated with training and copies of the AgentSheets software for you and your computer lab will be provided free of charge.

Subject Payment:

During the 2010-11 school year community college students will be compensated for 25 hours of support for 2 implementation cycles at $20/hour + travel expenses. You will also receive 3 continuing education graduate credits for your participation in this study. You may receive partial credit for your participation in the research if you choose to withdraw.

Ending Your Participation:

You have the right to withdraw your consent or stop participating at any time. You have the right to refuse to answer any question(s) or refuse to participate in any procedure for any reason. Refusing to participate in this study will not result in any penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

Confidentiality:

We will make every effort to maintain the privacy of your data. Your name and your students’ names will be converted into a numerical code before the research team analyzes the data. In almost all cases, data will be reported in aggregate form and so your name will not be used. Audio or video
tapes that are requested as part of this study for validation of survey responses will be destroyed 5 years after the conclusion of this study.

Other than the researchers, only regulatory agencies such as the Office of Human Research Protections and the University of Colorado at Boulder Institutional Review Board and the National Science Foundation may see your individual data as part of routine audits.

Questions?

If you have any questions regarding your participation in this research, you should ask the investigator before signing this form. If you should have questions or concerns during or after your participation, please contact Dr. Alex Repenning at (303) 492-1349.

If you have questions regarding your rights as a participant, any concerns regarding this project or any dissatisfaction with any aspect of this study, you may report them -- confidentially, if you wish -- to the Institutional Review Board, 3100 Marine Street, Rm A15, 563 UCB, (303) 735-3702.

Authorization:

I have read this paper about the study or it was read to me. I know the possible risks and benefits. I know that being in this study is voluntary. I choose to be in this study. I know that I can withdraw at any time. I have received, on the date signed, a copy of this document containing 4 pages.

Name of Participant (printed) __________________________________________

Signature of Participant ___________________________ Date ______________.

(Also initial all previous pages of the consent form.)