

Cover Page
APPLICATION FOR RESEARCH INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS
IN BIOMEDICAL OR BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH

Title of Project: The Relationship between Extra-Curricular Participation and Student Achievement in the Hispanic Population at Beardstown High School

Principal Investigator: Randi Cowell
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Faculty Sponsor (for student research only): Dr. Michael Arnold

We, the undersigned, approve this research as appropriate to the mission of our departments, colleges, and Southwest Baptist University.

Faculty Sponsor (only for student research)

Date

Chair, Department of

Date

Dean, College of

Date

(THIS FORM IS FOR RRB USE ONLY)

RRB RESEARCH REVIEW DETERMINATION

- Exempt from Review (Chair RRB)
- Expedited Review (RRB Subcommittee)
- Full RRB Review (Full RRB Committee)

RRB RESEARCH APPROVAL DETERMINATION

- Disapproval
 - Full Approval
 - Conditional Approval* (circle A or B)
 - A. Approval, subject to minor change
 - B. Approval in general but requiring major alterations, clarifications or assurances
- (* Data collection cannot begin until Full Approval is given by the RRB Chair)

COMMENTS:

Chair, Research Review Board

Date

APPLICATION FOR RESEARCH INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS
IN BIOMEDICAL OR BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH

Please Type

1. Principal Investigator's Name: Randi Cowell

Co-Investigators: Judy Fitzgerald, Principal; David Summers, ESL Director; Kathy Haut, ESL instructor; Minerva Quintana, ESL secretary; Julio Flores, parent liaison; Rosalinda Morato, translator

Department: Graduate Studies in Education

Phone: personal phone number and email go here.

2. If you are a student, provide the following:

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Michael Arnold

Department: Graduate Studies in Education

Phone: 800-792-4191

Is this your thesis research? Yes No

3. Title of Project: The Relationship between Extra-Curricular Participation and Student Achievement in the Hispanic Population at Beardstown High School

4. Has this project previously been considered by the RRB? Yes No

If yes, give approximate date of review:

5. Is a proposal for external support being submitted? Yes No

If yes, you must submit one copy of that proposal as soon as it is available and complete the following:

a. Is notification of Human Subject approval required? Yes No

b. Is this a renewal application? Yes No

c. Sponsor's Name: Dr. Michael Arnold

d. Total project period: From: January 2007 To: April 2007

6. In your judgment, does your research fall under one of the EXEMPT categories listed in the RRB Guidelines and Application for Research Involving Human Subjects, section II2IA1-4?

Yes No

If you believe it does, indicate the number of the category under which you are claiming an exemption:

7. Does your project fall under one of the categories eligible for EXPEDITED REVIEW as listed in the RRB Guidelines and Application for Research Involving Human Subjects, section IIIB1-5?

Yes No

8. Have you included copies of all pertinent attachments including, but not limited to: questionnaire instruments, informed consent(s), letters of approval from cooperating institutions, copy of external support proposal, etc.?

Yes No

Proposed Research Project

- A. Provide a brief description of the proposed research. Include major hypotheses (or research question), research design and a brief review of the literature supporting your position.

Problem Statement

A high percentage of Hispanic students at Beardstown High School are receiving failing grades in one or more classes.

Background of the Problem

In the spring of 1985 the Oscar Meyer Corporation closed its meat processing plant in Beardstown, IL. In 1989 Excel Corporation, a Cargill Foods Company purchased the plant. This change led to increasing diversity in the community. Many of the new workers hired at the Excel plant were migrant and immigrant workers. These workers were and still are predominantly Hispanic with limited abilities in the English language. With the changes in the community came changes needed in the school system.

The Beardstown Middle/High School did not meet AYP requirements for the 2005 school year. According to results released in the late spring of 2007 the middle/high school at Beardstown met the AYP requirements for the 2006 school year. Because of the growing number of Hispanic students at Beardstown High School, the success of the school as well as the district will be determined, in part, by the academic success of the Hispanic students. The intent of this project is to determine if Beardstown Middle/High School is responding to the educational challenges of a dramatically changing community.

Research Questions

1. To what extent do Hispanic students at BHS participate in extra-curricular activities?
2. Is there a relationship between student extra-curricular participation and the number of failing grades in the Hispanic population?
3. What additional activities need to be considered to increase the extra-curricular involvement of Hispanic students?
4. What barriers currently exist in the Beardstown School District to discourage Hispanic students from participation in extra-curricular activities?

Review of Literature

Between 1815 and 1860 approximately five million people immigrated to the United States. Two million of these came from European countries. Between 1860 and 1890 this number doubled, then tripled in the next twenty-four years. Schools established by 1918 were confronted with the difficulty of having to educate students who often could not speak English. Special classes were convened to help these children (Perkins, 2000).

Bilingual education was first legislated as Title VII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1968. It began as an initiative to provide money to encourage innovative programs to address the needs of non-native English speakers. This act was a first attempt by government to address the issue of minority languages and lagging Hispanic performance. The ruling in the 1974 decision of *Lau v. Nichols* changed that. This ruling

advanced bilingual education into a mandate that demanded schools take steps to give aid to students who were struggling due to language barriers (Guzman, 2002). On October 12, 2001 President George W. Bush signed Executive Order 13230 charging a Presidential Advisory Commission with developing an action plan to close the educational achievement gap for Hispanic Americans. On March 31, 2003 the commission submitted a plan known as *From Risk to Opportunity* (White House Initiative, 2003).

The number of new immigrants entering the United States has increased dramatically in the past few years. In 1990 there were almost twenty million foreign-born residents. One-third of the United States' population growth between 1990 and 2000 in the United States can be attributed to immigration (Perkins, 2000). The percentage of Hispanic Americans increased four point seven percent between April of 2000 and July of 2001 (White House Initiative, 2003). Creation of programs to retain Hispanic students in the educational midstream is an important federal issue. The number of English Language Learners in the United States increased seventy-two percent between 1992 and 2002 and over three million ELL students were enrolled in public schools by this time (Sandefur, 2007).

In its final report to the president, the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans (2003) reported that one out of every three Hispanic students drops out of high school before graduation. This dropout rate is more than double for that of Blacks, at fourteen percent, and more than three times the eight percent rate of Whites (Nichter, 2005).

There are many factors outside of the classroom that affect the way children perform academically. "A study by the U.S. Department of Education revealed that students who participate in co-curricular activities are three-times more likely to have a grade-point average of 3.0 or better (Fujita, 2006, p.1)". In the study done by Fujita (2006) junior high students who participated in sports were shown to have better grades than those that did not participate.

According to the National Federation of State High School Associations 54.2 percent of students enrolled in high school participate in athletics (2007). According to research (NASBE, 2007) done in the 1980's and 1990's, participation in athletics impacts not only classroom performance, but other aspects of school as well. A comparison of grade point averages from North Carolina student in 1995 showed that athletes earned average GPA's of 2.86 as compared to 1.96 of non-athletes. A ten percent decrease in discipline referrals as well as an almost eight percent decrease in drop out rates in athletes accompanied findings of an over-all higher sense of self-worth than that of non-athletes (NASBE, 2007).

Hypothesis

Despite the continuing improvement of bilingual education at Beardstown High School, a large percent of Hispanic students have failing grades. It is hypothesized that if barriers to extra-curricular participation by Hispanic students are identified it will lead to increased participation. This increase in participation will provide another avenue to help Hispanic students improve their grades.

- B.** Describe the source(s) of subjects and the selection criteria. Specifically where will you obtain the names of potential subjects and how will you contact them?

List of subjects will be obtained from the ESL secretary. This list designates students who note their ethnicity as Hispanic on enrollment forms. Only data related to grades and extra-curricular participation by gender, grade level, and age will be used. No individual student's name will be

used. Additionally, a third party will be providing the data to the researcher to ensure that no individual student is identifiable. Surveys and parent consent forms will be sent with the students via the ESL instructor or parent liaison.

C. Informed Consent: Describe the consent process and attach all consent documents.

See attached forms. All surveys will require parent permission forms. Each cover letter states that by returning the surveys that the student/parent is consenting to participation.

D. Procedures: Provide a step-by-step description of each procedure, including the frequency, duration, and location of each procedure. Attach copies of surveys or other research materials as appropriate.

The target population for this research project will be students who have indicated their ethnicity as Hispanic on enrollment forms. The researcher will distribute student surveys and cover letters (see Appendices A-D) to the ESL parent liaison and ESL instructor at Beardstown high school during the week of January 7-11. The parent liaison and ESL instructor will distribute parental consent forms (see Appendix E, F) to parents of the target population. Parent consent forms will be distributed directly to some parents at their homes by the parent liaison to insure that the parent receives the forms. The rest will be sent home with the student. The ESL parent liaison and ESL instructor will determine which parents will require home visits. Parental permission forms will be asked to be completed and returned by January 18 to the High School office. Minerva Quintana will collect parental permission forms and keep track of which students have permission to participate in the research project.

Upon receipt of parental consent, the students will be asked to complete the student survey. Those students in the ESL classroom will be given the survey by the ESL instructor in her classroom. Remaining students will complete surveys with the ESL director in the ESL office. Each survey will take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. The surveys will address the extent of extra-curricular participation by the student and his or her perception of barriers to participation. This portion of the project will occur during the week of January 21-25.

During the week of January 14-18 the researcher will obtain data from the principal concerning percentage of students with failing grades for Hispanic students and non-Hispanic students. The researcher will also survey coaches/sponsors of extra-curricular organizations to determine percent participation by Hispanic and non-Hispanic students (see Appendix G).

The student surveys will be collected by the ESL director on January 25. The surveys will be given to the researcher. The researcher and ESL secretary will compile data. The data will be analyzed by the researcher, the ESL director and the high school principal. This data will be compared to participation percentages and number of failing grades. The principal, ESL director and researcher will determine if there is a relationship between failing grades and participation in Hispanic students at BHS. The researcher, principal and ESL director will then make recommendations to decrease the barriers to participation as identified by the student surveys.

E. How will confidentiality of the data be maintained?

The ESL director and secretary will collect parental consent forms. All surveys will be collected by the ESL director or ESL instructor. The researcher and the ESL secretary will view only surveys which contain no names.

F. Describe all known and anticipated risks to the subject including side effects, risks of placebo, risks of normal treatment delay, etc.

There are no negative side effects to the subjects in this study.

G. Describe the anticipated benefits to subjects, and the importance of the knowledge that may reasonably be expected to result.

Research has shown that students who are more involved in activities outside of the classroom have better grades. The knowledge of possible barriers to Hispanic student participation in extra-curricular activities will lead to a reduction of those barriers. Increased participation in extra-curricular activities by Hispanic students at Beardstown High School will lead to a decrease in the number of failing grades.

Reference List

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www.yesican.gov/paceea/final.html

Appendix A

Student Survey

Section 1

Please fill out the following information:

Gender: M or F (circle one)

Age: _____ Grade Level: 9 10 11 12 (circle one)

Section 2

Please write the number of years (1-4) that you have participated in the following school extra-curricular organizations in the blanks provided:

IHSA Interscholastic Organizations

_____ Volleyball

_____ Basketball

_____ Football

_____ Track

_____ Golf

_____ Wrestling

_____ Cheerleading

_____ Scholastic Bowl

_____ Baseball

Clubs/Groups

_____ FCA

_____ Business club

_____ FFA

_____ Art Club

_____ Key Club

_____ Science Club

_____ Drama Club

_____ Student Council

_____ FHA

_____ Softball

_____ BITS

_____ Cross Country

_____ Elite Choir

_____ Dance/Pom Poms

You do not need to complete sections 3 or 4 of the survey if you participate in IHSA Interscholastic organizations.

Section 3

Please complete this section ONLY if you participate in clubs or groups and NOT in IHSA Interscholastic Organizations at Beardstown High School.

How do the barriers listed below affect your lack of participation in competitive extra-curricular organizations? Please mark each using the following rating scale:

No effect	minimal effect	don't know	some effect	significant effect
1	2	3	4	5

A. Time needed for participation 1 2 3 4 5

B. Expectation of passing grades 1 2 3 4 5

C. Lack of parental support 1 2 3 4 5

D. Transportation 1 2 3 4 5

E. Conflict with work outside of school 1 2 3 4 5

F. Lack of interest in existing organizations 1 2 3 4 5

G. Other (briefly explain): _____

Section 4

Please complete this section ONLY if you DO NOT participate in any extra-curricular activities at Beardstown High School.

How do the barriers listed below affect your lack of participation in extra-curricular organizations? Please mark each using the following rating scale:

No effect	minimal effect	don't know	some effect	significant effect
1	2	3	4	5

H. Time needed for participation 1 2 3 4 5

I. Lack of interest in existing organizations 1 2 3 4 5

J. Lack of parental support 1 2 3 4 5

K. Transportation 1 2 3 4 5

L. Conflict with work outside of school 1 2 3 4 5

M. Other (briefly explain): _____

Appendix B

Encuesta para Estudiantes

Sección 1

Favor de llenar la siguiente información:

Genero: M o F (circula uno)

Edad: _____ Grado: 9 10 11 12 (circula uno)

Sección 2

Favor de escribir el número de años (1-4) que has participado en las siguientes organizaciones extra curriculares en los espacios proveídos:

Organizaciones Interescolares de la IHSA

_____ Voleibol

_____ Basquetbol

_____ Futbol Americano

_____ Carreras

_____ Golf

_____ Luchas Grecorromanas

_____ Porrista

_____ Scholastic Bowl

_____ Beisbol

Clubs/Grupos

_____ FCA

_____ Club de Negocios

_____ FFA

_____ Club de Arte

_____ Key Club

_____ Club de Ciencias

_____ Club de Drama

_____ Consejo Estudiantil

_____ FHA

_____ Softball

_____ BITS

_____ Carreras de Campo

_____ Coro Elite

_____ Danza/Pom Pons

No necesitas completar las secciones 3 o 4 de la encuesta si tú participas en organizaciones Interescolares de la IHSA.

Sección 3

Favor de completar esta sección SOLO si participas en clubs o grupos y NO en Organizaciones Interescolares de la IHSA en la Preparatoria de Beardstown.

¿Como afectan las barreras mencionadas abajo tu falta de participación en organizaciones competitivas extra curriculares? Favor de marcar cada una usando la siguiente escala:

No afecta mínimo afecto no lo se un poco afecta significativamente afecta
1 2 3 4 5

N. Tiempo necesario para participar 1 2 3 4 5

O. Expectativa de calificaciones buenas 1 2 3 4 5

P. Falta de apoyo de padres 1 2 3 4 5

Q. Transportación 1 2 3 4 5

R. Conflicto con mi trabajo fuera de la escuela 1 2 3 4 5

S. Falta de interés en organizaciones existentes 1 2 3 4 5

T. Otra (explica brevemente): _____

Sección 4

Favor de completar esta sección SOLO si NO participas en ninguna de las actividades extra curriculares en la Preparatoria de Beardstown.

¿Como afectan las barreras mencionadas abajo tu falta de participación en organizaciones competitivas extra curriculares? Favor de marcar cada una usando la siguiente escala:

No afecta mínimo afecto no lo se un poco afecta significativamente afecta
1 2 3 4 5

- U. Tiempo necesario para participar 1 2 3 4 5
- V. Falta de interés en organizaciones existentes 1 2 3 4 5
- W. Falta de apoyo de padres 1 2 3 4 5
- X. Transportación 1 2 3 4 5
- Y. Conflicto con mi trabajo fuera de la escuela 1 2 3 4 5
- Z. Otra (explica brevemente): _____

Appendix C

Dear Student Participant:

As a requirement for the Master’s Degree in Educational Administration at Southwest Baptist University, I am conducting an action research project on the relationship between academic achievement of Hispanic students and participation in extra-curricular activities at Beardstown High School. Additionally, the study will attempt to determine barriers to participation. Upon completion of the project recommendations will be presented to the administration on how Beardstown High School can work to increase participation in extra-curricular activities in the Hispanic population. The attached survey has been designed to collect data reflecting the number of students participating in various interscholastic and extra-curricular activities. Data will include grade level, gender and age but no individual names will be used. Only compiled data (total numbers) will be shared with administrators, faculty or board members and the academic advisor at Southwest Baptist University.

This survey is voluntary. It will take 5-10 minutes to complete. Understand that by filling out and handing in the survey you have given permission for the data to be used for the action research project. Answer questions to the best of your ability. Your honesty is essential to this research. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Cowell

Appendix D

Estimado Alumno Participante:

Como requisito para la Licenciatura de Maestría en Administración Educacional en la universidad Southwest Baptist University, estoy conduciendo un proyecto de investigación en acción en la relación entre el logro académico de alumnos Hispanos y la participación en actividades extra curriculares en la preparatoria de Beardstown. Adicionalmente, el estudio intentara determinar las barreras a la participación. Después de completar le proyecto, recomendaciones serán presentadas a la administración en como la preparatoria de Beardstown puede trabajar para incrementar la participación en actividades extra curriculares en la población Hispana. La encuesta adjunta ha sido diseñada para coleccionar datos que reflejen el número de estudiantes participando en varias actividades interescolares y extra curriculares. Los datos incluirán el grado, el género y la edad pero no se usaran los nombres individuales. Solo los datos recopilados (números totales) serán compartidos con los administradores, miembros de la facultad y de la mesa educativa y con el consejero académico de la universidad Southwest Baptist University.

Esta encuesta es voluntaria. Se tomara de 5-10 minutos en completar. Entiende que llenando y entregando esta encuesta has dado tu permiso para que los datos sean usados para el proyecto de investigación en acción. Contesta las preguntas lo mejor que puedas. Tu honestidad es esencial para esta investigación. Gracias por tu tiempo.

Atentamente,

Sra. Cowell

Appendix E

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As a requirement for the Master's Degree in Educational Administration at Southwest Baptist University, I am conducting an action research project on the relationship between academic achievement of Hispanic students and participation in extra-curricular activities at Beardstown High School. Additionally, the study will attempt to determine barriers to participation. Upon completion of the project recommendations will be presented to the administration on how Beardstown High School can work to increase participation in extra-curricular activities in the Hispanic population. A student survey has been designed to collect data reflecting the number of students participating in various interscholastic and extra-curricular activities. Data will include grade level, gender and age but no individual names will be used. Only compiled data (total numbers) will be shared with administrators, faculty or board members and the academic advisor at Southwest Baptist University.

This survey is voluntary. It will take 5-10 minutes to complete. Each student must have parental/guardian permission to participate. If you agree to let your student participate, please sign this form below.

I am also interested in your opinions about extra-curricular activities at Beardstown High School. Attached to this form is a survey which you may complete if you choose. Understand that by filling out and handing in the survey you have given permission for the data to be used for the action research project. Please return the survey and permission form to the ESL Director at Beardstown High School. You may send them to school with your student if you prefer. Answer questions to the best of your ability. Your honesty is essential to this research. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Miranda L. Cowell
BHS science teacher
Administrative Intern

I hereby give permission for _____ to complete the survey for the action research project entitled "Relationship between Hispanic Achievement and Extra-Curricular Participation at Beardstown High School."

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Appendix F

Estimado padre/Guardián:

Como requisito para la Licenciatura de Maestría en Administración Educacional en la universidad Southwest Baptist University, estoy conduciendo un proyecto de investigación en acción en la relación entre el logro académico de alumnos Hispanos y la participación en actividades extra curriculares en la preparatoria de Beardstown. Después de completar le proyecto, recomendaciones serán presentadas a la administración en como la preparatoria de Beardstown puede trabajar para incrementar la participación en actividades extra curriculares en la población Hispana. Se ha diseñado una encuesta estudiantil para recoger datos que reflejen el número de estudiantes participando en varias actividades interescolares y extra curriculares. Los datos incluirán el grado, el género y la edad pero no se usaran los nombres individuales. Solo los datos recopilados (números totales) serán compartidos con los administradores, miembros de la facultad y de la mesa educativa y con el consejero académico de la universidad Southwest Baptist University.

Esta encuesta es voluntaria. Tomara de 5 a 10 minutos para completarla. Cada estudiante debe tener permiso de sus padres/guardianes para participar. Si esta de acuerdo en dejar que su hijo/a participe, favor de firmar la forma de abajo.

También estoy interesada en sus opiniones acerca de las actividades extra curriculares en la Preparatoria de Beardstown. Adjunta a esta forma esta una encuesta que puede completar si lo desea. Entienda que al llenar y entregar la encuesta esta dando su permiso para que los datos en esta sean usados para el proyecto de investigación. Favor de regresar la encuesta y el permiso al director de ESL de la Preparatoria de Beardstown. Si lo prefiere, puede mandar estos a la escuela con su hijo/a. Conteste las preguntas lo mejor que pueda.. Su honestidad es esencial en esta investigación. Gracias por su tiempo.

Atentamente,

Sra. Miranda L. Cowell
Maestra de ciencia en la preparatoria de Beardstown

Administradora en práctica

Por medio de la presente doy mi permiso para que _____
complete la encuesta para el proyecto de investigación en acción titulada “La relación entre el logro Hispano y la participación extra curricular en la Preparatoria de Beardstown.”

Firma: _____

Fecha: _____

Appendix G

Coach/Sponsor Survey

Dear Coach/Sponsor:

As a requirement for the Master’s Degree in Educational Administration at Southwest Baptist University, I am conducting an action research project on the relationship between academic achievement of Hispanic students and participation in extra-curricular activities at Beardstown High School. Additionally, the study will attempt to determine barriers to participation. Upon completion of the project recommendations will be presented to the administration on how Beardstown High School can work to increase participation in extra-curricular activities in the Hispanic population. A student survey has been designed to collect data reflecting the number of students participating in various interscholastic and extra-curricular activities. Data will include grade level, gender and age but no individual names will be used.

Please complete the survey below. This will allow me to determine the percent participation by our Hispanic population in extra-curricular activities. Thank you for your time and your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Randi Cowell

Name of Coach/Sponsor:

Name of Organization/Team:

Total number of participants:

Number of Hispanic participants: