

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA - CHAMPAIGN

College of Education  
1310 South Sixth Street  
Champaign, Illinois 61820



**National Alliance for Doctoral Studies in Mathematical Sciences:  
Research Proposal**

My name is Casey George-Jackson and I am a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, in the College of Education. My research team and I are conducting a study on the National Alliance for Doctoral Studies in the Mathematical Sciences. We are interested in examining students' experiences in the mathematical sciences, as well as how faculty mentoring and the Alliance program impacts student's success in these fields. We are conducting focus groups with students and faculty who are engaged in the Alliance program to learn more about your thoughts on the Alliance program, the culture and climate of math, and mentoring.

You must be age 18 or older to participate. Your participation in the focus group is completely voluntary. If you decide to participate, it will last approximately 45 minutes. We do not anticipate any risk to participation beyond those that exist in daily life. You are under no obligation to participate and are free to decline answering any of the questions that might be asked. Your choice to participate or not will not impact your status with the University of Illinois, your home institution, or the Alliance program. All focus groups will be audio recorded and transcribed for analytical purposes. You may request that that the focus group session you partake in not be audio recorded. In the event that one focus group participant requests that their session not be recorded, the researchers will honor the request. All information that is obtained during this session will be kept confidential and stored in a secure locked cabinet and on a password protected computer. No identifying information will be contained in any reporting of the results and there will be no way to link any statements you may make back to you. Though there may be little direct benefit to the participant, the benefits of this study for society are significant as it will help us understand how the Alliance program impacts students' success in the mathematical sciences.

We look forward to speaking with you. If you have any questions about this research project you may contact Dr. Casey George-Jackson at 217-333-4673 or via e-mail at [cgeo@illinois.edu](mailto:cgeo@illinois.edu). If you have any questions about your rights as a participant in this study or any concerns or complaints, please contact the University of Illinois Institutional Review Board at 217-333-2670 (collect calls will be accepted if you identify yourself as a research participant) or via email at [irb@illinois.edu](mailto:irb@illinois.edu). The second copy of the form is yours to keep.

Sincerely,

Dr. Casey George-Jackson  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

telephone 217- 333- 4673  
url <http://www.education.illinois.edu>

Please check the appropriate line below:

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to participate in the interview.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would not like to participate in the interview.

I agree to allow this interview to be audio recorded (please check one):

Yes             No

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_