**RESEARCH PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

**STUDY TITLE: The professional identity development of students from Black and/or African American backgrounds in entry-level counselor training programs**

**VCU INVESTIGATOR:** Donna M. Gibson

Dear Participant,

You are invited to participate in a research study about the professional identity development of students from underrepresented racial minority backgrounds, specifically those who identify as Black and/or African-American, in master’s degree counselor education programs. Your program has identified you as someone who may be eligible for participation and can contribute to the growing research in this area that informs training of counselors. Your participation is voluntary.

We invite you to respond to a [Google survey](https://forms.gle/vXRNUiTvkZpqtsTK9) that will collect demographic data and ask you questions about your program status and experiences. At the end, we will ask for your contact information to contact you for interviews to gather information for a grounded theory study about predisposing factors and developmental processes that influence professional identity development. For the purpose of the study, we are asking that participants commit up to a total amount of 90 minutes of time for 1-2 interviews conducted by one of our research team members. Interviews will be recorded, with your permission, and kept secure for data analysis by the research team. At the completion of the interview(s), you will be compensated with a $25 gift card up to a maximum of 20 interviewees.

Responses will not be identified by name or institution in order to help protect confidentiality. Any professional conference presentations or manuscripts resulting from this study will refer to the participants in the aggregate or to participants by their chosen pseudonym. The informed consent document is integrated into the Google survey. Information about our research team appears below to increase transparency and provide insight into orientation toward knowledge making and social change.

**About the Research Team**

As a research team, we share a commitment to promoting research in the counseling profession that exemplifies the values that underlie equity in training, practice, and research. Our team is comprised of counselors and counselor educators from varied racial/ethnic/gender identities. We wish to study students from underrepresented racial minority backgrounds, specifically those that identify as Black and/or African-American, because there is a paucity of research on the important predisposing factors and processes that influence professional identity development in counselors. Much of the existing work on professional identity development is based on majority White participant pools where predisposing social justice experiences are not given voice. Hence, the choice of a qualitative method that requires voice and attention to these important influences on development are a priority.

Our research team includes:

Dr. Donna M. Gibson, Virginia Commonwealth University

Dr. Colette T. Dollarhide, The Ohio State University

Dr. Tanya J. Middleton, The Ohio State University

Ila M. Cartwright, Virginia Commonwealth University

Micky Lin, The Ohio State University

Rumbi Mushunje, The Ohio State University

Sarah Henry, The Ohio State University

Ryan Max, The Ohio State University

If you have any questions, concerns, or complaints about this study now or in the future, please contact Dr. Donna M. Gibson, 804-828-1333, [dgibson7@vcu.edu](mailto:dgibson7@vcu.edu).