Multistate Agricultural Literacy Research Committee (W3006) Meeting

April 24, 2020, via WebEx

Members Present:

Kellie Enns, Colorado State University Kellie.enns@colostate.edu

Gaea Hock, Kansas State University ghock@ksu.edu

Rose Judd-Murray, Utah State University rose.juddmurray@usu.edu

Michael Martin, Colorado State University Michael.j.martin@colostate.edu

Debra Spielmaker, Utah State University debra.spielmaker@usu.edu

Denise Stewardson, Utah State University denise.stewardson@usu.edu

Josh Stewart, Oregon State University josh.stewart@oregonstate.edu

Cary Trexler, University of California—Davis cjtrexler@ucdavis.edu

Brian Warnick, Utah State University brian.warnick@usu.edu

Members Absent:

Kimberly Bellah, Murray State University kbellah@murraystate.edu

Haley Clement, Oregon State University haley.clements@oregonstate.edu

Kevin Curry, Pennsylvania State University kxc554@psu.edu

Thomas Dormody, New Mexico State University tdormody@nmsu.edu

Carl Igo, Montana State University cigo@montana.edu

Amber Rice, University of Arizona amrice@email.arizona.edu

Kathryn Stofer, University of Florida stofer@ufl.edu

Jonathan Velez, Oregon State University jonathan.velez@oregonstate.edu

Gigette Webb, University of Arizona gigettewebb@email.arizona.edu

Guests Present:

Jenny Bennett, Colorado State University Jennifer.bennett@colostate.edu

Sasha Broadstone, Utah State University sasha.broadstone@usu.edu

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. MST by Debra Spielmaker, chair.

Members and guests of the committee introduced themselves.

Sasha Broadstone, Utah State University, introduced herself and explained her role with the Institutional Review Board (IRB). Sasha will provide information and answer questions relating to the committee’s research and the use of IRB.

Note: General information and objectives for this Agricultural Literacy Multistate Research Project (W3006) is available at <https://www.agliteracy.org/research/multistate.cfm>

The official site for this project is <https://www.nimss.org/> where project details including participants and minutes are on file. Use “3006” in search.

Spielmaker explained the project’s objectives:

1. Assess the agricultural knowledge of diverse population segments related to agriculture, including consumers, students, and producers. Specifically, explore and/or measure: a. points of acquisition of agricultural knowledge; b. decisions made based on assessed knowledge.
2. Assess attitudes, perceptions, and motivations of diverse population segments related to agriculture, such as consumers, students, and producers. Specifically, explore and/or measure: a. how perceptions, attitudes and motivations are developed; b. decisions made based on assessed attitudes, perceptions, and motivations; c. behavior changes that have occurred due to changes in attitude, perceptions, and/or motivation.
3. Evaluate agricultural literacy programs to measure program impact. Specifically:
a. measure impacts of agricultural literacy programs related to critical thinking and problem solving; b. explore and evaluate peer and participant-centered agricultural literacy programming methods to determine their effectiveness in addressing defined agricultural literacy outcomes.

*Please make sure to double-check that your name is on the participant list along with your selected objectives.* This is a five-year project, so please select objectives accordingly.

Rose Judd-Murray gave a presentation on her doctoral research on the development of grade 9-12 assessments for measuring proficiency levels in agricultural literacy—the Judd-Murray Agricultural Literacy Instrument (JMALI). Details are available at <https://www.agliteracy.org/research/assessment.cfm> This can be used as a summative assessment and is currently being conducted in higher education populations.

Rose then explained how others could use the USU approved IRB protocol within their own institution. She explained that to conduct research with this assessment, institutions who are members of the Smart IRB system could easily use Smart IRB for protocol approval, <https://smartirb.org/reliance/>. Rose provided a [link to a Google Drive folder](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1fq1kA7v4S8QvaLgHI704maDUAB37g6lg?usp=sharing) where her presentation and the forms could be found. Institutions wanting to participate in research with eth JMALI this fall as part of this Multistate Research should go through these steps (these are outlined in the PowerPoint presentation in the Google Drive folder):

1. If you plan to get involved, email Judd-Murray (rose.juddmurray@usu.edu) with intent to participate and provide your email associated with Google Drive.
2. Access the SMART IRB: Online Reliance System (if your institution is a member, <https://smartirb.org/reliance/>) or use the Reliance Agreement Template in the Google folder.
3. File a reliance agreement via <https://smartirb.org/reliance/> you will receive approval, or submit the Agreement template and Rose will add you to USU’s IRB agreement.
4. This is an exempt protocol; some universities don’t provide the exempt certificate, so you may need to reach out to your institution about their procedures. These materials have already been developed which you can use for your protocol.
5. Anonymity: Most institutions have an anonymity requirement when students are used as a population in on-campus research. USU uses the SONA system to ensure no personal information collected. Your institution may have a similar system. The [SONA](https://research.usu.edu/irb/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2018/01/SONA-Policy-Version-9.30.16.pdf) system, and others like this one, are used to distribute surveys and maintain anonymity. Researchers will need to describe the method of distribution that will be used to maintain anonymity withing their institution. Compensation options are built into SONA, and researchers may want to consider compensation for students who opt into participating (e.g., extra credit for a particular class). The JAMLI Assessment takes approximately 20 minutes.
6. Once notified that an institution wants to participate, Judd-Murray will copy the Qualtrics survey and provide each institutional lead with access to link the Qualtrics Survey with the SONA (or other) institutional program for distribution.

The intended timeline for this project: Fall semester 2020 (first 2 weeks in) and Spring semester 2021 (first 2 weeks in). This means the IRB agreements need to get in place this summer. Judd-Murray encouraged participants to reach out to other colleagues nationwide to participate.

Brian Warnick, administrative advisor for this project, stated that this type of research has been discussed for more than 15 years; this is a true multistate effort and is very exciting! He encouraged as much participation as possible from all project participants.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 MST.