**Consent Statement**

**IRB # 2009L8135**

Dr. Marc Turner (email [GMTurner@txstate.edu](mailto:GMTurner@txstate.edu)) and health psychology graduate student, Jackie Beccue (email jb1398@txstate.edu) of the Texas State University Department of Psychology are conducting a research investigation. The purpose of this research is to determine whether support from coworkers and workplace fun can help increase job satisfaction and decrease tension at work. Also, these factors may help to decrease feelings of general stress in one’s life and increase feelings of self-worth.

You are being asked to participate in a research project conducted through Texas State University, San Marcos. Your participation in this study has great contributions to the field of psychology and will allow researchers to study the effects of work factors on general life stress and self-worth. You are being asked to participate in this study to determine how social support and workplace fun affect quality of life of people in the retail industry.

This survey contains questions regarding life stress, job-related tension, work satisfaction, self-esteem, and social support. There are 79 questions that should not take more than 20 minutes to complete. An example of a question you may see might look like this:

Example: I know what is expected of me at work.

1 2 3 4 5

Strongly Agree Strongly Disagree

Your participation in this research benefits you as you may gain an understanding of how research is conducted, as well as increase awareness of your own insight of how work factors can contribute to feelings of stress. Also, you may participate in a raffle. By providing your name and contact information where the principle researcher may reach you, the winning participant will receive a $25 Barneys New York gift card, which may be redeemed at any Barneys New York retail store.

We believe there are minimal risks for participating in this research. If you feel uncomfortable by some questions or experience an unanticipated distress, the contact information for the Texas State University Counseling center is <http://www.counseling.txstate.edu/intro.html>. Counseling at the University Counseling Center is free to registered students, but there may be a limit to the number of counseling sessions a student can receive. The email address is [couselingcenter@txstate.edu](mailto:couselingcenter@txstate.edu). Also, there is counseling available for participants who are not enrolled in the university. Non-Texas State participants may contact the Cedar Creek Associates in San Marcos with any concerns regarding questions asked in the survey at 512-396-8540. These services are not free and should be made by appointment. Also, any other participants who are enrolled in other colleges or universities in the area may contact the student counseling center at the school to follow up on any unanticipated distress experienced during the survey process.

Your participation in this research project is completely voluntary. You are free to withdraw from the study at any time without penalty to your standing with Texas State University or to any other college or university in the area, or to your employer. Similarly, lack of participation will not harm your current position or relationship with your employer. In addition, you may choose not to answer any question for any reason. **After completion of the survey please seal it in the provided envelope to ensure confidentiality of your responses. Please return to your store manager after completion.**

This research has been approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) and if you have questions about the research, research participant’s rights, and/or research-related injuries, you should direct them to the IRB chair, Dr. Jon Lasser (512-245-3413 or [lasser@txstate.edu](mailto:lasser@txstate.edu)), or to Ms. Becky Northcut, Compliance Specialist (512-245-2102).

This is an anonymous survey and your name will not appear in any part of the study. The consent statement is to ensure that you are aware of the potential benefits of your participation as well as any risks. Any personal information that is attached to the completed survey, if you wish to be included in the raffle, will be confidential and will not be matched to the data. Separate envelopes are provided so that upon completion of the survey it can be placed in an envelope and sealed to protect it from view from other employees. This survey should be answered without interference or conference with others and answers should not be compared to preserve authenticity of the survey results.

* The questionnaires from this study will be stored in the psychology building for no more than 10 years. Consent statements will be stored in the researcher’s office in sealed boxes for no more than a year upon which time they will be shredded.
* At the conclusion of the study, the results will be made available through the researcher who would be happy to provide you with the results of this study if you request them from Jackie Beccue via her email ([*jb1398@txstate.edu*](mailto:jb1398@txstate.edu))
* The IRB approval number for this study is .

Completion of the survey is implied consent that you understand your rights as a participant in this study and that you are willing to participate.

If you have any questions, please contact the principal investigator, Jackie Beccue or Dr. Marc Turner at [jb1398@txstate.edu](mailto:jb1398@txstate.edu) or [GMTurner@txstate.edu](mailto:GMTurner@txstate.edu), respectively.

Thank You