**Consent Form**

Engaged Learning, Technology and Social Capital in Social Work Education

Dear prospective participant,

Dr. Anne Deepak is a researcher from Texas State University and is inviting you to participate in a research study about how engaged learning occurs in social work education, how this learning is shared or used, and how technology plays a role in this process. Dr. Deepak is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work. She can be contacted at 512.245.8837 or by email at [ad21@txstate.edu](mailto:ad21@txstate.edu). Kelly Gondek, Master of Social Work Student and Graduate Assistant, is assisting Dr. Deepak in data collection and analysis. Her email is [kg53853@txstate.edu](mailto:kg53853@txstate.edu).

The purpose of this study is to explore how engaged learning occurs in social work education, how this learning is then shared or used, and how technology plays a role in this process. Engaged learning is defined as a positive energy invested in one’s own learning, evidenced by meaningful processing, attention to what is happening in the moment, and involvement in learning activities.

The reason why this research is being conducted is to improve social work education by building on knowledge from students about how they become engaged in learning, use and share learning and how technology plays a role in this process.

You have been asked to participate in this study because you are a student in the School of Social Work. If you agree to be a part of this study, you will be one of approximately 20 students, 10 undergrad and 10 graduate students to participate in a focus group for approximately one and a half to two hours. The focus group will include questions about your perceptions of learning, how it is shared and if/how you utilize social networking sites or youtube clips for information sharing or if you share this learning in other settings. The focus group will consist of open-ended questions and time for you and your peers to talk about engaged learning. The focus group will be tape-recorded and one of the researchers will be taking notes to supplement the recordings. These recordings will be transcribed. The focus group will be confidential and your name will not be on any of the information taken from the interview. Common themes will be pulled from the transcriptions. You may ask questions any time throughout the focus group.

By participating in this study you will help investigators better understand how engaged learning occurs. We plan on using the results of the study to better understand how and why engaged learning occurs to help consider any adjustments in teaching methods, presentation styles or services offered to students in the School of Social Work or to be duplicated in other schools. The results of this study may be published in professional and/or scientific journals. It may also be used for educational purposes and/or professional presentations.

You may choose to not answer all or part of any questions for any reason or withdraw from the study. If you do not want to be in this study then you do not have to be. No one will be upset if you choose not to participate or even if you change your mind later and want to withdraw from the study. Participation in this study is voluntary and there is no penalty for choosing not to participate.

There are no foreseen risks to participating in this study. The study is confidential and we will keep your information private and it will not have any identifying information attached to it. You do not need to answer any questions if they make you uncomfortable. There are no more than minimal risks associated with participating in this research study, meaning that it would be no different than what you deal with every day.

All efforts will be made to ensure and maintain the confidentiality of your participation in this project. Confidentiality will be maintained through assigning a code number to each participant. The participants’ data will be tracked by their code number, not their name. This code number will appear on all written documents. The list that connects the names to the code numbers will be destroyed after matching. All data will be stored in a locked file cabinet to which only the researchers have access. Confidentiality will be maintained according to legal requirements. The data will be stored for approximately five years. Any data collected, transferred and stored to computer files will be password protected. Analysis of data will be completed in another password protected file that is solely accessed by Dr. Deepak and Kelly. Neither the computer program nor our final reports will provide any information that will allow the linking of names to specific comments.

A summary of the findings from this study will be shared with you as soon as possible. To obtain a summary you may contact us by phone or email. You can ask questions anytime about the study. If you have questions, you can call or email the researchers.

Any further questions you may have about the research or research participants' rights should be directed to the IRB chair, Dr. Jon Lasser 512.245.3413 ([lasser@txstate.edu](mailto:lasser@txstate.edu)), or to

Ms. Becky Northcut, Compliance Specialist at 512.245.2102.

Institutional Review Board Approval Number:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Participant: I understand the contents of this consent form and I give consent to participate in this study. (Please check the box below if you agree.)

Printed Name Signature and date

Participant Consent

Co-Principal Investigator

Co-Principal Investigator