# Consent Form

**A Research Study of Latinos and Latinas in STEM Majors**

**Texas State University Institutional Review Board Number 2011U362**

You are invited to participate in a research study of men and women who have chosen a Science, Technology, Engineering and/or Math (STEM) field as their major. My name is Mariano Conti. I am a student at Texas State University in the Department of Sociology working on a new research study for my Master’s thesis. The purpose of this research will be to study the experiences of Latina/o students in STEM disciplines, as an attempt to improve on educational resources and increase diversity in academia. My contact information is: 512-705-6714, or mc1597@txstate.edu.

You were selected as a possible participant in this study because you identify as Latina/o or Hispanic and you are working towards a degree in a STEM field. You either volunteered for the study by responding to a flyer, or someone you know referred you to me. You will be one of 16 people chosen to participate in this study. If you choose to participate, I will ask you questions about your school experiences, for example, your motivation and decision to become a STEM major, your educational experiences and future goals in STEM.

If you decide to participate, you will take part in a one-on-one in-depth interview with me. The interview will be audio-tape-recorded and should take no more than one hour of your time. The possible risk to your participation is psychological harm from describing/re-living past events and interactions that may have been negative or damaging, although this possibility is negligible. Agencies that might be helpful to you include the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs (512-245-2278), the Office of Equity and Access (512-245-2539) and the Texas State University Counseling Center (512-245-2208). If you use the services of a counselor, fees will be your own. A possible benefit is discussing student experiences that you might not have described prior to participating in the study. These types of discussions can sometimes help students develop an academic or scientific identity, an aspect of the collegiate experience shown to be connected with academic success.

Any information that is obtained in connection with this study and that can be identified with you will remain **strictly confidential**. Audio files will be assigned a code number so your name will never be attached to the audio files. Only I, the interviewer will hear your interview on the digital recorder, and I will keep the recorder locked in a file cabinet until the study is finished. At that time, I will erase the recordings of your interview. When I describe the information obtained, an alias or false name will be used in place of your true name or identity and the name of your school. I will not transcribe any identifying information. According to Federal guidelines, this consent form will be kept for three years before being destroyed.

If you decide to take part in the interview, you are free to stop the interview at any time. You can withdraw from the study without prejudice or jeopardy to your standing with Texas State University. You don’t have to answer any question that makes you uncomfortable. If you have any questions, please ask me. Upon completion of the Thesis, I will create a short summary of the findings. This summary can be mailed to any participants who request it. The Texas State Institutional Review Board has approved this study.

You will be offered a copy of this form to keep. If you have questions in the future, please contact me. With questions or concerns about your rights or this research, you may also contact the Institutional Review Board chairperson at Texas State, Dr. Jon Lasser (512-245-3413, lasser@txstate.edu) or the Office of Sponsored Projects administrator, Ms. Becky Northcut (512-245-2102). You may also contact my supervising professor, Dr. Gloria Marines (512-245-2470, gm21@txstate.edu).

You are making a decision whether or not to participate in this study. Your signature means that you have read the information provided above and have decided to participate. You may withdraw at any time after signing this form should you choose to do so.

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Signature of Participant Print Name Date

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Signature of Investigator Print Name Date