



Dear Parents and Students,

Thank for your interest in the **A.S.P.I.R.E.**, ACT Supplemental Preparation In Rural Education, program! It is with great pleasure that we accept you to participate in the ASPIRE program. This is a state wide NC Cooperative Extension program administered through North Carolina State University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences that will help bridge college entrance examination score deficits to assist students interested in pursuing degrees in fields of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The primary focus of the ASPIRE program will be to assist students from rural, economically distressed counties, who are interested pursuing higher education and future careers in Agriculture. NC Cooperative Extension staff have been trained by The Princeton Review Test Preparatory Company to teach ACT College Entrance Exam Prep Courses to A.S.P.I.R.E. students. A.S.P.I.R.E. extension agents will provide students with 30 contact hours of instruction, where students will learn skills and strategies to help them prepare for the ACT College Entrance Examination necessary for their college application. Additionally, A.S.P.I.R.E. students will receive The Princeton Review Study Manual, The Princeton Review 1,296 Practice Question Book, The Princeton Review Selective College Admission Booklet, four full length practice ACT diagnostic exams with full score breakdown, and online access to The Princeton Review materials to help prepare for the ACT College Entrance Examination.

As part of the A.S.P.I.R.E. program, Dr. Kenneth Anderson – Director of A.S.P.I.R.E. and her research team will conduct a study to determine the efficacy of utilizing NC Cooperative Extension Agents to teach rising juniors and seniors enrolled in the A.S.P.I.R.E. program skills and strategies to improve their performance on the ACT College Entrance Examination and likelihood of college acceptance. In order to effectively evaluate this program, we are asking for your participation in the research component of this study on the A.S.P.I.R.E. program. Your participation in the study is completely voluntary and will NOT affect your standing or participation in the A.S.P.I.R.E. program. If you agree to participate in the research portion of the A.S.P.I.R.E. study, we are asking for participants to do the following:

- 1) You and your parent/guardian will be asked to sign this informed consent form if you agree to participate in this research study. Your willingness to participate in this research study does NOT impact your acceptance or standing with the A.S.P.I.R.E. program in any way.
- 2) Complete an on-line pre-class survey answering questions regarding your GPA, SAT/ACT scores, grade level future career interests, extracurricular activities, where you plan to attend college, and how the A.S.P.I.R.E. program can assist you in gaining admission to college as well as with pursuing your future career.

Name: _____

County: _____

- 3) Take a pre-diagnostic ACT exam, and allow you ACT scores to be used for study purposes.
- 4) Take two diagnostic ACT tests during the test preparation course, and allow your scores to be used for study purposes.
- 5) Take a final diagnostic ACT exam, and allow your score to be used for study purposes.
- 6) Complete four quarterly on-line surveys asking you to report where you have applied to college, where you have been accepted/deferred/denied admissions, where you plan to attend college, what you plan to major in, and what you intended future career is.
- 7) Complete an online post-class survey answering questions regarding the development of your test taking skills and strategies, and the effectiveness of the A.S.P.I.R.E. program on your ACT exam and admissions to college.
- 8) Set up a Wolfpaw Account with NCSU to allow Dr. Anderson to track your application and admissions decision to NCSU. You will also be asked to grant Dr. Anderson access to your private student records at NCSU so that she may track your application and admissions decisions to NCSU.

All information that will be collected as part of this study will be held completely confidential and will only be used for research purposes. No names will be connected with the data and all data will be reported as averages for all A.S.P.I.R.E participants. We ask you for your cooperation with this research study, in order to effectively evaluate this program so we are able to continue securing funding to provide youth in North Carolina with ACT test preparation to help them gain admissions into college.

If at any point, you wish to no longer participate in the research study, you can contact the A.S.P.I.R.E. agent and inform them that you wish to be removed from the study. Your participation in the research study does NOT have any effect on your standing or admissions into the A.S.P.I.R.E. program.

Attached to this letter you will find the consent form as well as the schedule for the ASPIRE class that your will be participating in. Please sign the consent form and turn it into your instructor on your first day of class. If you are a junior/senior in high school and a minor (under 18 years of age) at the time of application to the A.S.P.I.R.E. program, you will need to sign the consent form in addition to your parent or legal guardian.

We look forward to working with you in the A.S.P.I.R.E. program to help you achieve your academic and career aspirations!

Sincerely,

Dr. Kenneth Anderson– Executive Director of ASPIRE
Ms. Rachel Huffman – Program Coordinator for ASPIRE
Ms. Mindy Herman – M.S. Graduate Student

Name: _____

County: _____

ASPIRE ACT Class Terms of Agreement:

Please review the following terms and conditions of participating in the ASPIRE program. Both the student and parent/guardian must initial next to each of these terms indicating that you have both reviewed and agree to these terms.

*****Please submit only 1 check for the total amount of \$165 made out to North Carolina State University.**

1. I am aware that there is a **\$65 NON-REFUNDABLE** cost for The Princeton Review ACT Preparatory materials that is non-refundable. I am aware that I will receive The Princeton Review Student Manual, 1,296 ACT Question Workbook, Four full-length ACT Practice Exams with score analysis, and access to The Princeton Review Online ACT Resources for this price. I am aware that I must submit a **NON-REFUNDABLE check for \$50*** made out to **North Carolina State University** and bring this check to my first ASPIRE class.

_____ Parent/Guardian

_____ Student

2. I am aware that there is a **\$100 REFUNDABLE** cost to participate in the ASPIRE program. This deposit ensures that you will adhere to the strict attendance policy. This policy is going to be strictly enforced to ensure that you get the most out of your class! In order to receive your full-deposit upon completion of the course you must complete the following:

- Complete all 4 full-length practice ACT exams. This includes a diagnostic exam, two exams during the course, and one final exam. If you have a conflict with any of the scheduled practice test dates, you will need to arrange to have your exam administered by an approved proctor by your ASPIRE instructor BEFORE the course begins.

**** PLEASE NOTE: If you miss ANY of the four practice exams and do not make them up with an approved proctor at an alternate time, you will forfeit your ENTIRE deposit!!**

_____ Parent/Guardian

_____ Student

- Attendance will be taken at each ASPIRE class. You will be reimbursed directly based upon your attendance. Below is the reimbursement policy:

Attend 100% of classes and complete all 4 ACT exams = \$100 Refunded

Attend 90% of classes and complete all 4 ACT exams = \$90 Refunded

Attend 80% of classes and complete all 4 ACT exams = \$80 Refunded

Attend 70% of classes and complete all 4 ACT exams = \$70 Refunded

Attend 60% of classes and complete all 4 ACT exams = \$60 Refunded

Attend 50 % of classes and complete all 4 ACT exams = \$50 Refunded

Attend less than 50% of classes= Forfeit entire \$100 deposit

_____ Parent/Guardian

_____ Student

- I am aware that I must submit a check for **\$100* that may be fully REFUNDABLE/ partially REFUNDABLE/ or Non-REFUNDABLE based on my attendance** made out to **North Carolina State University** and bring this check to my first ASPIRE class.

_____ Parent/Guardian

_____ Student

Name: _____

County: _____

**North Carolina State University
INFORMED CONSENT FORM for RESEARCH**

This form is valid June 3rd, 2013- June 3rd, 2014

Title of Study A.S.P.I.R.E.- ACT Supplemental Preparation In Rural Education

Principal Investigator Dr. Kenneth Anderson

What are some general things you should know about research studies?

You are being asked to take part in a research study. Your participation in this study is voluntary. You have the right to be a part of this study, to choose not to participate or to stop participating at any time without penalty. The purpose of research studies is to gain a better understanding of a certain topic or issue. You are not guaranteed any personal benefits from being in a study. Research studies also may pose risks to those that participate. In this consent form you will find specific details about the research in which you are being asked to participate. If you do not understand something in this form it is your right to ask the researcher for clarification or more information. A copy of this consent form will be provided to you. If at any time you have questions about your participation, do not hesitate to contact the researcher(s) named above.

What is the purpose of this study?

The purpose of the proposed research is to determine the effectiveness of using North Carolina Cooperative Extension System Staff and teachers in teaching ACT test preparation courses to rising juniors and seniors from rural Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties in North Carolina, in order to increase college admission rates by effectively removing the deficits in ACT College Entrance Examination scores. Performance on College Entrance Examinations like the ACT acts as a roadblock for many students from rural, Tier 1 and Tier 2, and agriculturally intensive counties who want to pursue higher education. This deficit in college entrance examination scores is often times preventing students from gaining admissions to college. Through ACT test preparation, students can increase their scores, and therefore the likelihood of being accepted into a four year university.

What will happen if you take part in the study?

If you agree to participate in this study, you will be asked to:

- 1) You and your parent/guardian will be asked to sign this informed consent form if you agree to participate in this research study. Your willingness to participate in this research study does NOT impact your acceptance or standing with the ASPIRE program in any way.
- 2) Complete an anonymous on-line pre-class survey answering questions regarding your academics, extracurricular activities, plans for the future, demographics, and expectations pertaining to the ASPIRE program.
- 3) Take a pre-diagnostic ACT exam, and allow your diagnostic ACT scores to be used for study purposes. Even if you choose NOT to participate in the research study, the 4 diagnostic exams and Wolfpaw account are inclusive components of the ASPIRE program.
- 4) Take two diagnostic ACT tests during the test preparation course, and allow your scores to be used for study purposes.
- 6) Take a final diagnostic ACT exam, and allow your score to be used for study purposes.
- 7) Complete one mid-class online anonymous survey asking whether the course is beneficial regarding the class syllabus/materials, improvement of scores, and if this course has influenced your college decision
- 8) Complete an online post-class anonymous survey answering questions regarding the effectiveness of the ASPIRE program testing strategies, improvement of ACT scores, and college plans.
- 9) Set up a Wolfpaw Account with NCSU to allow Dr. Anderson to track your application and admissions decision to NCSU. You will also be asked to grant Dr. Anderson access to your private student records at NCSU so that he may track your application and admissions decisions to NCSU.

Name: _____

County: _____

** Please note that your personal data, responses to all surveys, personal NCSU student records and all ACT exam scores will be kept completely confidential and that all data published from this study will not be linked to individual students' names but will be published as aggregate data for all students participating in the research portion of the ASPIRE program.

Risks

Students may be concerned about reporting their GPA, ACT scores, and college admissions outcomes while participating in this study. All data in this study will be reported as conglomerate data; individual data will NOT be reported or published with students' identifications.

Benefits

While participating in the research portion of the ASPIRE student will not directly benefit students currently enrolled in the ASPIRE program, their participation will indirectly benefit their communities by providing us with the means to continue to garner financial support from funders to continue offering the ASPIRE program in these communities.

Confidentiality

The information in this study will be kept confidential to the full extent allowed by law. Data will be stored securely by the ASPIRE research team in confidential excel spreadsheets stored on a jump drive maintained by Dr. Anderson. No reference will be made in oral or written reports which could link you to the study. Your demographic information, ACT performance data, and GPA will also be requested in the surveys you complete but will NOT be reported or published in connection with your identification.

Compensation

You will not receive any monetary compensation for participating in this study.

What if you have questions about this study?

If you have questions at any time about the study or the procedures, you may contact the Principle Investigator, Dr. Kenneth Anderson (ken_anderson@ncsu.edu) (919-513-5527) Scott Hall Rm. 237

What if you have questions about your rights as a research participant?

If you feel you have not been treated according to the descriptions in this form, or your rights as a participant in research have been violated during the course of this project, you may contact Deb Paxton, Regulatory Compliance Administrator, Box 7514, NCSU Campus (919/515-4514).

Consent To Participate

"I have read and understand the above information. I have received a copy of this form. I agree to participate in this study with the understanding that I may choose not to participate or to stop participating at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which I am otherwise entitled."

Student's signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian's signature _____ Date _____

Name: _____
County: _____

ASPIRE Wolfpaw Account:

Below is information on how to set-up a Wolfpaw Account. Please complete the account set-up and have both you and parent/guardian sign at the bottom and return this form.

***Wolfpaw is a free service after by NCSU. We will be using this service to track ASPIRE student applications to North Carolina State University.**

To activate your Wolfpaw account, go to the following website: **<https://wolfpaw.ncsu.edu/>**

1. On the upper right side of the webpage there is a link entitled "Create your page" (under the sign in for registered users)
2. Click on the link.
3. Enter in all the required information, then select "Continue".
4. Now that you have created your page you can return as often as you like. Just go to the website (**<https://wolfpaw.ncsu.edu/>**) and sign in using the username and password that you created.

I hereby signify that I have set-up my Wolfpaw account:

Student Signature

I hereby signify that my child has set-up a Wolfpaw account:

Parent/Guardian Signature