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Fred G. Martin, Ph.D.

***Professor, Computer Science
Director of Student Success, Kennedy College of Sciences***

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Dear Parent or Guardian:

Our names are Fred Martin and Diane Schilder. Fred is a faculty member at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Diane is a project evaluator. We are working with your son or daughter's classroom technology or engineering teacher and are offering a one-week free summer camp where your child will learn about computer science and develop a mobile phone app. We expect to provide wonderful new learning opportunities to your son or daughter. The summer camp will be led by district teachers and UMass Lowell faculty and students.

This work is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation called "Middle School Pathways in Computer Science." As part of our research, we will ask your child to complete a survey at the beginning and end of the summer camp and with your permission we'll review your child's work to understand his or her learning during the camp.

Also, we would like to ask your child about her or his experiences in programming, and give a programming problem to solve while we observe and talk to your child. These activities will take place with a small group of 2 or 3 students in the main classroom.

We are asking your permission to use your child's survey responses and work products in our research. The study has minimal risk of revealing these data. We will not publish your child's name or anything that could identify him or her in any publications of research results.

We hope you will allow us to include your child's data in our study. We will do so only if your child also agrees (gives her or his assent). There are no consequences if your child chooses to not participate in our research. You may withdraw your child or and she or he can withdraw at any time. The primary summer camp activities will be the same in any case.

Students without research participation permission and assent will perform the same activity, with no discrimination. Their work product will not be collected and any experiences they share with researchers will not be included for analysis. Work product collection will not be visible to other students, so there is no difference in experience between students participating in the research and those who do not.

Our research study and this letter are approved by our university's Institutional Review Board, which is responsible for protecting the rights and welfare of human research participants for all research activities conducted by UMass Lowell faculty and staff.

Please fill out the form on the back of this letter, and have your child return it to her or his teacher. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,



Fred Martin, Associate Professor



Diane Schilder, Principal Evaluator

“Middle School Pathways in Computer Science” Summer Research Permission Form

With your permission, we can learn from your child’s participation in our new curriculum development project. If the form is not returned, we will not include your child in our study. Your child will receive the same instruction in any case.

Please check below:

☐ Yes, I give my permission to include my child’s survey responses and work in your study.

☐ No, please exclude my child’s data from your study.

Your name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

We need the information below to find your child’s data:

Teacher’s name: _____

Child’s first and last name initials (two letters only): _____

Child’s birth month (2 digits) (e.g. for May, write “0 5”): _____