**Capstone Project Abstract Template**

**250 Word Limit**

PROJECT TITLE: An analysis of the Social Network of Campus Connections and its Relationship to Youth Outcomes

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BACKGROUND/INTRODUCTION:

Campus Connections is a multidisciplinary service learning course at Colorado State University (CSU) where undergraduate students serve as mentors to at-risk youth and adolescents. Furthermore, peer relationship formation during adolescence is predominantly important in playing a role for developmental outcomes (Piehler & Dishion, 2014).

OBJECTIVES:

The purpose of this study is to examine adolescent and youth social relationships and how they effectively predict various youth outcomes throughout the course of Campus Connections.

METHODS/PROCESS/STRATEGY:

Youth and adolescent social bond formations were measured at five intervals during the 11-week Campus Connections time period. Therefore, these measures of social connections were used to examine and predict outcomes associated with Campus Connections. Hierarchical linear regression and partial F-tests were used to compare a full predictive model with social network measures ability to significantly youth outcomes over the reduced model with general predictive measures.

RESULTS/OUTCOMES/PRODUCT:

The hierarchical linear regression modeling showed that the addition of social network measures may serve as a significantly more predictive model of youth outcomes during Campus Connections.

CONCLUSIONS/FUTURE RESEARCH OR USE:

Results from this study may be used to further improve the already well-established Campus Connections Program to incorporate more activities that encourage a higher deeper and a higher number of adolescent friendships. Future research should expand to further understand the importance of forming a stronger relationship with the adolescent’s paired mentor versus other peers in the program.