



AUBURN UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS, LEADERSHIP AND TECHNOLOGY

(NOTE: DO NOT AGREE TO PARTICIPATE UNLESS IRB APPROVAL INFORMATION WITH CURRENT DATES HAS BEEN ADDED TO THIS DOCUMENT.)

INFORMATION LETTER

“Alabama Funeral Service Licensees’ Perception of Funeral Service Education and Readiness for Professional Practice in a Changing Environment”

You are invited to participate in a research study that examines the perception that licensed funeral directors/embalmers in Alabama have towards the American Board of Funeral Service’s learning objectives for content areas to determine perceived importance of those learning objectives, academic preparation to master those objectives, and perceived adequacy of those objectives towards professional practice in a changing environment. The study is being conducted by Jzyk S. Ennis, under the direction of Dr. James Witte in the Auburn University Department of Educational Foundations, Leadership, and Technology. You are invited to participate in this survey if you are: 1) a licensed funeral director/embalmer in the State of Alabama; 2) have graduated from a Funeral Service Education program accredited by ABFSE in or after 1962; 3) have worked in some capacity in funeral service as either a licensed funeral director and/or embalmer within the last 12 months and; 4) are age 19 or older.

If you decide to participate in this research study, you will be asked to complete an anonymous online survey through Qualtrics. Your total time commitment will be approximately 15-20 minutes. Your participation is completely anonymous and voluntary. There are no foreseeable risks associated with participating in this study; however, if you feel uncomfortable while answering the questions, you can withdraw at any time by closing your browser window. Once you’ve submitted anonymous data, it cannot be withdrawn since it will be unidentifiable. Your privacy and the data you provide will be protected by not asking for any personally-identifying information and by not capturing your computer’s Internet Protocol (IP) address. Your participation in this research is confidential. All survey data will be gathered into Qualtrics software using an open-access link that does not identify you or your computer. Information collected through your participation may be used to fulfill the requirements of my doctoral dissertation, published in a professional journal, and/or presented at a professional meeting. Your decision about whether or not to participate or to stop participating will not jeopardize your future relations with Auburn University, the Department of Educational Foundations, Leadership, and Technology, the Alabama Board of Funeral Service, or Jzyk S. Ennis.

Other than your time, there is no cost to participate in this research. While there is no monetary compensation for your participation in this study, your responses will be valuable to educators, policy-makers, client-families, and licensees in the State of Alabama.

4036 Haley Center, Auburn, AL 3684-5221; Telephone: 334-844-4460; Fax: 334-844-3072

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If you have questions about this study, please contact Jzyk S. Ennis at jse0008@auburn.edu / (205) 821-0454 or Dr. James Witte at witteje@auburn.edu / (334) 844-3054.

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact the Auburn University Office of Research Compliance or the Institutional Review Board by phone (334) 844-5966 or e-mail at IRBadmin@auburn.edu or IRBChair@auburn.edu.

HAVING READ THE INFORMATION ABOVE, YOU MUST DECIDE IF YOU WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS RESEARCH PROJECT. IF YOU DECIDE TO PARTICIPATE, PLEASE CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW. YOU MAY PRINT A COPY OF THIS LETTER TO KEEP.

Thank you,

Jzyk S. Ennis

Principal Investigator / Doctoral Candidate

Department of Educational Foundations, Leadership, and Technology

Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama

The Auburn University Institutional Review Board has approved this document for use from **May 17, 2015** to **May 16, 2018**. Protocol # **15-184 EX 1505**

https://auburn.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_enBkIFw4Aui3knH