

TEACHER CONSENT FORM

TITLE: Project-based, Collaborative Learning with Google Earth and Wikis
(GooWi Explorers)

SPONSOR: National Science Foundation (Award No: 1135467)

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Purpose: You have agreed to participate in the GooWi Explorers project. GooWi Explorers is designed to provide teachers with an innovative, user-centered, learning activity that helps students critical develop critical 21st century workplace skills in the process of learning relevant content. These skills include learning how to use cyber-based tools and resources to conduct scholarly research, work collaboratively, and communicate findings. The project fully supports teachers' implementation of the activity with their students.

Although most middle school students have had some contact with the internet, few understand how it can be effectively and ethically used to collect, evaluate, and communicate information about a given research topic. The project will lead students through this process in relation to a topic that their class has selected to study.

Another important 21st century workforce skill is the ability of people to work collaboratively in the online environment. Through Wiki workspaces students will be able to collectively assemble information they have collected, analyze, discuss, and interpret that information. They will learn the process of peer review and how to communicate respectfully and constructively with others. Students will begin to think about how to connect with a specific audience as they develop presentations using Web pages and Google Earth files. Through this process they will also learn about computer markup languages and what lies behind the web pages that they encounter.

These 21st century workforce skills are difficult for students to gain outside of a motivating and personally meaningful context. The GooWi Explorers project allows teachers and students to make their own decisions about what they want to study. Students should find this approach very engaging. The fact that they will be presenting their work to their peers should raise the stakes for students, further motivating them to do their best work.

Procedures: As part of this project, we would like to learn how you and your students' experiences with the GooWi Explorers learning activity help build 21st century workforce skills. If you agree to take part in this research study, you will be asked to:

- Complete an online pre-program survey. This should take approximately 60 minutes.
- Attend a two-day orientation meeting in Missoula on June 11 and 12.
- Maintain a key code using students' school lunch numbers or some other applicable system to de-identify student data.
- Have students take an online survey using their unique ID codes at the beginning and end of the activity.

- Maintain a blog of your experiences teaching the activity on the project Wiki.
- Participate in teacher and staff discussions on the project Wiki.
- Respond to a telephone exit interview.
- Complete an online post-activity survey. This should take approximately 30 minutes.

Benefits/Risks: We anticipate little if any risks to any of the activities listed above. We will coordinate any online group discussions with you beforehand, so as not to disrupt your schedule. Your participation in this project may help us better understand how to develop an activity that optimizes inquiry learning while building students' 21st century workforce skills.

Payment for Participation: You will receive stipend payments aligned with the following project milestones:

Summer 2012	Orientation meeting	\$100
Fall 2012	Student pre-data and activity implementation	\$300
Spring 2013	Final reporting	\$600

You will also be reimbursed for your travel to the orientation meeting as per State of Montana travel reimbursement guidelines.

Confidentiality: Your identity will be kept confidential and if the results of this study are written in a scientific journal or presented at a scientific meeting, your name will not be used. All data will be stored on a secure server and your signed consent form will be stored in a locked file cabinet separate from the data.

Compensation for Injury: Although we foresee only minimal risk in taking part in this study, the following liability statement is required in all University of Montana consent forms. In the event that you are injured as a result of this research you should individually seek appropriate medical treatment. If the injury is caused by the negligence of the University or any of its employees, you may be entitled to reimbursement or compensation pursuant to the Comprehensive State Insurance Plan established by the Department of Administration under the authority of M.C.A., Title2, Chapter 9. In the event of a claim for such injury, further information may be obtained from the University's Claims representative or University Legal Counsel.

Voluntary Participation/Withdrawal: Your decision to take part in this research study is entirely voluntary. You may withdraw from the study at any time by contacting the project director, Dr. Heather Almquist, at (406) 370-0139 or heather.almquist@umontana.edu.

Questions: If you have any questions about the research now or during the study contact: Dr. Heather Almquist, 370-0139. If you have any questions regarding your rights as a research subject, you may contact the Research Office at The University of Montana at 243-6670.

Subject's Statement of Consent

I have read the above description of this research study. I have been informed of the risks and benefits involved, and all my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. Furthermore, I have been assured that any future questions I may have will also be answered by a member of the research team. I voluntarily agree to take part in this study. I understand I will receive a copy of this consent form.

Printed (Typed) Name of Subject: _____

Subject's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____