Rutgers University LGBTQA Youth Climate Survey

IRB Approval Number _____________
Principal Investigators: Maren Greathouse, M.S., Jody Miller, Ph.D., Vanessa Panfil, Ph.D.

What is the Rutgers University LGBTQA Youth Climate Survey and why are we doing it?
This survey is about you. It is a study being done by the Tyler Clementi Center and the School of Criminal Justice at Rutgers University. We wrote it to help you share important information about yourself, your school, and your community, including both good things (like people who support you) and more difficult things (like harassment and risky activities). If you choose to fill out the survey, the things you tell us will be used to develop programs for you and other young people like you who attend high school in your area.

Do I have to fill it out?
NO! All of the students who are here today at the event are invited to take our survey, but you don’t have to, and nobody will be upset with you if you don’t want to fill it out. You won’t be in trouble with your school counselors or teachers, or anyone here at Rutgers.

Also, if you decide to fill it out, but don’t want to answer all of the questions, you don’t have to do that either. If you are not comfortable answering a question, just leave it blank. You can stop taking the survey at any time—even if you start it, you don’t have to finish it.

Who will see my answers?
If you fill out the survey, the only people who will see your answers are the researchers at Rutgers University who are doing this study. This means your teachers, school counselors, principals, and parents/guardians will not see what you say. DO NOT write your name on the survey. The answers you give will be kept anonymous—this means once you complete our study, nobody, not even the researchers, will be able to match your name to your answers.

Make sure you cover your paper when you answer the questions, and don’t look at what other students are writing either. That is the best way for all of us to make sure that everyone’s answers stay private.

Will it be hard to fill out?
The survey will take about 30 minutes to finish. Try to answer the questions based on what you really feel, think and do. Some questions may upset you, bring up bad memories, or make you feel sad. If this happens and you want to talk to someone about it, just let us know. There are counselors here at the event who care about you and can help. We can also help you contact a counselor to speak with after the event, if you wish to do so.

What are the good things about taking the survey?
We are doing this study because we want to understand your experiences, both good and bad. Once we’re finished studying what everybody tells us, we will write a report for Garden State Equality, event sponsors, your school district, Rutgers University and local LGBTQ-youth serving non-profit organizations to tell them what they can do to
help make your school and community a better place for you and others like you. At next year’s event, we will also tell about everything we learned.

**Will I be paid if I fill out the survey?**
Yes, to thank you for sharing your experiences with us, you will receive $10. Also, if you start the survey but decide you want to stop, we will still pay you $10 for the time you took to try it.

**What if I’m not sure whether I want to take the survey?**
A staff member from Garden State Equality is here. Their role in the research is to make sure you don’t feel pressured to take the survey, to answer any questions you have, and to help you decide what’s the best decision for you. Take your time, ask them any questions that you want, and only take the survey if you are sure that you want to.

**What if I have questions after I finish? Tomorrow, next week, or even next year?**
You can call or email us any time if you have questions about the study. Here is how you can reach us:

- **Maren Greathouse:** 848-445-1175 or maren.greathouse@rutgers.edu
- **Jody Miller:** 973-353-1303 or jody.miller@rutgers.edu
- **Vanessa Panfil:** 757-683-4238 or vpanfil@odu.edu

Also, if you’re not happy with the study or with how we treated you, you can talk to Rutgers University’s Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects. That is the group on campus that makes sure anyone who takes part in our research is protected and treated fairly. Here is how you can reach them:

Institutional Review Board
Rutgers University, the State University of New Jersey
Liberty Plaza / Suite 3200
335 George Street, 3rd Floor
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
Phone: 732-235-9806
Email: humansubjects@orsp.rutgers.edu

**REMEMBER, IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO TAKE THIS SURVEY, YOU DO NOT HAVE TO. NOBODY WILL BE UPSET WITH YOU.**

If you choose to fill out the survey, please sign your **FIRST NAME** only on the line below.

__________________________________________  __________
First Name                                      Date

__________________________________________  __________
Co-Principal Investigator                      Date

__________________________________________  __________
Youth Advocate                                 Date