



PHENIX CITY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



May 13, 2019

Dear Student,

Congratulations! You have been accepted into the 2018 Tuskegee BUILDERS Academy which will be held on the campus of Tuskegee University. Participation in the Academy will provide you with important skills in Science Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), which will help with your studies and careers, which we hope will be in a STEM area. Our activities will provide you with knowledge of STEM and STEM careers, as well as a good understanding of how to work collaboratively. Lunch and snacks will be provided at the Academy. We will also provide transportation to the Academy by school bus (transportation information will be provided soon).

You and the person listed as your emergency contact will receive an e-mail welcoming you to the BUILDERS Academy and asking you to confirm your contact information. **If you have not received this e-mail by May 24, 2019, please e-mail us URGENTLY ([tuskegeebuildersacademy@gmail.com](mailto:tuskegeebuildersacademy@gmail.com))** because important Academy information (for example, transportation and cancellations due to emergency situations) will be delivered by e-mail and we must have a way to contact you.

Enclosed with this letter, you will find the following documents:

- A contract with the Academy, which you must sign to verify you understand the expectations you need to meet to remain in the Academy and receive your stipend (**must be signed and returned**).
- A liability release form, which states that you and your parents/guardians understand that you attend the Academy at your own risk. We will emphasize safety at all times, but ultimately, it is you who will be responsible for following safety directions (**must be signed and returned**).
- A photography/video release form, which allows us to use pictures and videos of the Academy for posting on the program's website, twitter site, and for presentations related to the program (**a choice must be selected, and the form must be signed and returned**).
- Information regarding the research component of the program.
- A parental consent form, which asks parents/guardians whether they give you permission to participate in the research component of the Academy (**if permission is granted, the form must be signed and returned; if no permission is granted, the form must be returned blank**).
- A child assent form, in which you tell us whether you would like to participate in the research component of the Academy. You can agree or decline participation independent of your parents'/guardians' choice (**select a choice, sign and return the form**).

Signed documents can be scanned/photographed and emailed to [TuskegeeBuildersAcademy@gmail.com](mailto:TuskegeeBuildersAcademy@gmail.com) (please write "Academy documents" in the subject box), mailed to: Dr. Mohammed Qazi, Dept. of Mathematics, Tuskegee University, AL 36088, or turned in to your teacher. **You will not be allowed to participate in Academy activities until all 5 forms have been returned.**

Looking forward to seeing you at the Academy,

*Mohammed A. Qazi*  
Mohammed Qazi, Ph.D.  
Professor of Mathematics  
Tuskegee University

*Martha Escobar*  
Martha Escobar, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Psychology  
Oakland University



## 2019 TUSKEGEE BUILDERS ACADEMY

### STUDENT EXPECTATIONS AND PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

#### Academy Expectations

- Attend the Academy, June 10 – 28, 2019 (Monday – Friday); 9AM – 2:30 PM CST. A maximum of 3 absences will be permitted. Absences beyond 3 will result in dismissal from the Academy, regardless of reason.
- Participate in all Academy activities as directed by University and teacher mentors.
- Behave in a professional manner and serve as role models for peers. There will be **zero tolerance for bullying, teasing and unprofessional conduct of any kind**. Any unruly behavior will result in **immediate dismissal** from the Academy, **forfeiting all monetary stipends**.

#### Academy Stipend

- A stipend of \$60 / day for a maximum of \$900 for the full Academy. Payment will be made shortly after the end of the Academy contingent upon completion of all Academy activities.

I acknowledge that I have read this agreement and I understand that I will conduct myself professionally during the entire Academy. Failing to satisfy any of the Academy expectations will lead to loss of the stipend and/or withdrawal from the Academy.

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Student Signature

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Date

Sign &amp; return

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Parent/Guardian Signature

---

Date

Sign &amp; return

**TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY**  
**ASSUMPTION OF RISK, WAIVER, AND**  
**RELEASE FROM LIABILITY**

NOTE: This form must be read and signed before the participant is permitted to take part in any event. By signing this agreement, the participant affirms having read and understood it.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ desire to participate in Tuskegee University's **BUILDERS Academy**. This Assumption of Risk, Waiver, and Release from Liability covers the entirety of my participation in the **BUILDERS Academy**, including travel to any locations off the Tuskegee University campus in order to participate in activities associated with the **BUILDERS Academy**. This document covers my participation in this program/event **from 06/10/2019 to 06/28/2019**. Should this program/event run beyond the end date stated in the previous sentence, I agree that this waiver shall too be extended until the completion of this program/event.

1. **Risk Factors** – I understand and acknowledge that the participation in the **BUILDERS Academy** involves risks including, but not limited to the following: risk of property damage, bodily injury, including, but not limited to, permanent disability paralysis, and possibly death. These risks may result from a variety of circumstances including, but not limited to, the use or misuse of the equipment or facilities, from the activity itself, from the acts of myself or others, including Tuskegee University and its agents or from the unavailability of emergency medical care.
2. **Assumption of Risk** – I am participating in the **BUILDERS Academy** of my own free will. I understand that my decision to participate in the program/event is entirely voluntary. I assume full responsibility for all risks that may arise out of, or result from my participation in the **BUILDERS Academy**, including, but not limited to, those risks described in Section 1.
3. **Release, Indemnify, and Defend** – I hereby release, waive, discharge, and hold harmless Tuskegee University, and all of its affiliates, predecessors, successors, trustees, officers, directors, faculty, employees, agents, and representatives, past or present (hereafter jointly referred to as "the Released Parties") from any and all claims, suits, liabilities, judgments, costs and expenses ("Claims") for any property damage, property loss or theft, personal injury or illness, death or other loss arising from or relating to my participation in the **BUILDERS Academy**. I also agree to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from and against any Claims arising from or relating to my own acts or omissions in connection with my participation in the program.
4. **Waiver** – I hereby waive any protections afforded by any statute or law in any jurisdiction whose purpose, substance, and/or effect is to provide that a general release shall not extend to claims, materials or otherwise, which the person giving the release does not know or suspect to exist at the time of executing the release. This means, in party, that I am releasing unknown future claims.
5. **Payment for Damages** – I agree to pay for any and all damages to any property or Release Party caused by me negligently, willfully or otherwise.
6. **Representatives** – I enter into this agreement for myself, as well as for my heirs, assigns and legal representatives.
7. **Consent for Emergency Treatment** – I consent to medical treatment for emergencies that occur during, or are related to my participation in the **BUILDERS Academy** where I am unable to consent to such treatment. I understand the provisions of this Assumption of Risk, Waiver, and Release from Liability apply to any treatment that might be provided to me under this Section.
8. **Insurance** – I understand that I may be solely responsible for any medical, health, or personal injury costs relating to my participation in the **BUILDERS Academy**.
9. **Jurisdiction** – This Assumption of Risk, Waiver, and Release from Liability shall be governed in all

respects by the laws of the State of Alabama.

10. **Severability** – If any term or provision of the Assumption of Risk, Waiver, and Release from Liability is held to be illegal, invalid, or unenforceable, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall to any extent be illegal, invalid, or unenforceable under present or future laws effective during the term hereof which survive termination, then and in any such event, it is the express intention of the parties that the remainder of the Assumption of Risk, Waiver, and Release from Liability, or the application of such term, clause, or provision other than to those as to which is held illegal, invalid, or enforceable, shall not be affected thereby, and each term, clause, or provision of this Assumption of Risk, Waiver, and Release from Liability and the application thereof shall be legal, valid, and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

*I have read and fully understood this Assumption of Risk, Waiver, and Release from Liability and understand that it relates to surrendering and releasing valuable legal rights. I do so freely and voluntarily this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.*

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PRINTED NAME

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SIGNATURE

Sign &  
return

Consent and Release on Behalf of Minor (under 18 years of age) by Parent/Legal Guardian

I am the parent or legal guardian of the above named minor. I have read and understood this Assumption of Risk, Waiver, and Release from Liability in its entirety and understand that it relates to surrendering valuable legal rights of the minor and myself. I agree to be bound by all the terms of the Assumption of Risk, Waiver, and Release from Liability. I also give my consent to the participation in the activity of the minor and I do so freely and voluntarily this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

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PRINTED NAME

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SIGNATURE

Sign &  
return



## TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY

### OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING

#### **Tuskegee University Photograph, Audio and Video Release Form**

I hereby grant permission to Tuskegee University, its subsidiaries, licensees, successors and assigns, the rights to use, publish, and reproduce, for all purposes, my image, name, likeness and sound of my voice as recorded on audio or videotape without payment or any other consideration. I understand that my image may be edited, copied, exhibited, published or distributed and waive the right to inspect or approve the finished product wherein my likeness appears. Additionally, I waive any right to royalties or other compensation arising or related to the use of my image or recording. I also understand that this material may be used in diverse educational settings within an unrestricted geographic area.

I understand that all photographic, audio or video recordings and printed and/or electronic copies of the aforementioned via all media including, without limitation, to cable and broadcast television and the Internet, may be used for the following purposes, but not limited to:

- conference presentations
- educational presentations or courses
- informational presentations
- on-line educational courses
- educational videos
- marketing and promotional materials

By signing this release I understand this permission signifies that photographic, audio or video recordings of me may be electronically displayed via the Internet or in the public educational setting

There is no time limit on the validity of this release nor is there any geographic limitation on where these materials may be distributed.

By signing this form I acknowledge that I have completely read and fully understand the above release and agree to be bound thereby. I hereby release any and all claims against any person or organization utilizing this material for educational purposes.

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address/P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Prov/Postal Code/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Sign &  
return

If this release is obtained from a presenter under the age of 19, then the signature of that presenter's parent or legal guardian is also required.

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Sign &  
return

Dear parents/guardians,

Congratulations on having your child accepted to the BUILDERS ITEST Academy! A very important part of the Academy's goals is to investigate the factors that foster adolescents' interest, persistence, and ultimately success in careers in the Sciences, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). The only way to investigate those factors is by assessing students who are completing their K-12 education and are pondering their professional future. Your child is at that stage and, thus, could be a valuable contributor to this assessment.

Attached to this letter you will find a "Parental Consent" form, which you can return to us to let us know that you grant permission for us to invite your child to be a participant in this investigation. Even if you provide us with that permission, it will be your child's decision whether or not to participate in the project. Your child will make that decision by filling out the "Child Assent" form. If you decide not to allow your child to participate in the research, or if your child decides that he or she does not want to participate in the research, there will be no consequences regarding their participation in the Academy.

The research will consist of a survey asking questions relating to your child's experience in STEM courses and activities, regardless of whether or not your child is considering a career in a STEM area. This survey will collect no personal information except for some general demographics. The answers your child provide cannot be used as diagnostic or grading tools; indeed, the researchers who will be handling the data are not associated to your child's school or school district. Furthermore, your child's responses will not be tied to your child's name.

If you provide parental consent, please, sign the parental consent form and return it with the rest of the Academy documents. Your child will complete the surveys as part of the Academy's activities and it will not detract from instruction time. Upon completion of the survey, your child will be asked whether he/she would agree to be contacted at a later time (1 year later) for a brief, follow-up interview. If they agree, their name will be saved as part of a list of students to contact, but separate from the responses they provide to the survey.

If you do not provide parental consent, please return the form blank. Your child should still fill in his/her choice in the Child Assent Form.

This study is being conducted by Drs. Mohamed Qazi and Michael Curry (Tuskegee University; [maqazi@mytu.tuskegee.edu](mailto:maqazi@mytu.tuskegee.edu) and [currym@mytu.tuskegee.edu](mailto:currym@mytu.tuskegee.edu)) and Dr. Martha Escobar (Oakland University, MI; [marthaescobar@oakland.edu](mailto:marthaescobar@oakland.edu)), and it is supported by an ITEST grant from the National Science Foundation. This grant also funds the BUILDERS ITEST Program at Tuskegee University, which is the basis for this research study. To learn more about the BUILDERS program, please visit [website]. The study has been approved by the Human Participant Review Committee for the Protection of Human Participants at Tuskegee University.

Cordially,

*Mohammed A. Qazi*  
Mohamed Qazi  
Tuskegee University, AL

*Martha Escobar*  
Martha Escobar  
Oakland University, MI

## **Parent or Legal Guardian Permission for Child to Participate in a Research Study**

### **Building Unique Inventions to Launch Discoveries, Engagement and Reasoning in STEM (BUILDERS)**

You are being asked to give permission for your child to participate in a research study. Before you give permission for your child to participate, it is important that you read the following information and ask as many questions as necessary to be sure you understand what your child is being asked to do.

#### **Investigators**

This research project is being conducted by Drs. Mohamed Qazi from Tuskegee University, AL (maqazi@mytu.tuskegee.edu), in collaboration with Dr. Martha Escobar from Oakland University, MI (marthaescobar@oakland.edu). All procedures used in this research have been approved by the Tuskegee University Human Participants Review Committee (Dr. Stephen Sodeke, HPRC Chair, 334-724-8210).

#### **Purpose of the Research**

This research study is designed to investigate the reasons why high school students select and remain to pursue activities related to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), as well as how to increase their success in pursuing careers related to STEM. The data from this research will be used to better inform the Alabama school system on the type of interventions and programs that may increase academic and professional success of students in STEM. This research project is associated to the BUILDERS ITEST Academy, to which your child has been accepted.

#### **Procedures**

If you allow your child to participate in this study, he/she will be asked to complete a survey that will ask some demographic information, as well as information on how they are doing in STEM related courses, what they feel about STEM, their anticipated career options, and the difficulties they may be experiencing with their STEM courses. His/her participation will take approximately 45 min, and will be conducted as part of the Academy's activities, but without detracting from instruction time. Your child will be also asked whether they consent to be contacted in one year for a brief, follow-up interview which will be conducted by telephone. This survey will ask questions related to their recent experiences with STEM, as well as the things that influenced those experiences.

Your child will be asked to assent (agree) to participate in this research. He/she can refuse to participate without any penalty, and/or can stop participation at any time just by telling the investigator that he/she wants to stop (if taking the surveys at the Academy).

#### **Potential Risks or Discomforts**

There are no foreseeable risks associated with the study. At the completion of the survey, your child will be asked whether he/she is willing to be contacted again for the follow-up interview. If he/she would like to be contacted for this follow-up, we will ask that he/she provide us with contact information. However, that contact information will not be stored in connection with the data they provide. Your child is free to decline this subsequent contact.

#### **Potential Benefits of the Research**

The present study will serve to assess the BUILDERS ITEST program, which was designed to implement various interventions that can help students succeed in STEM-related activities and careers, with the potential of implementing these interventions into the STEM curriculum in the state of Alabama. Thus,

the student population will benefit from identification and assessment of potential interventions to increase academic and professional success of students in STEM. We also invite you to visit the MAKERS program Facebook page, which will disseminate BUILDERS activities and our findings on how different activities and interventions affect student success in STEM. These postings may provide students with tips and information on how to maximize their success in STEM with their existing resources, or how to pursue activities that can increase their chances of success.

### **Confidentiality and Data Storage**

All of your child's responses will be recorded as anonymous, and only group means will be shared with the scientific community. Any information connecting your child to this research project will be destroyed upon completion of data collection and only a code name will be associated with the responses they provide.

### **Participation and Withdrawal**

Participation in this research study is voluntary. You may refuse to allow your child to participate. If you decide to allow your child to participate, you are free to withdraw him/her at any time. To withdraw your child from the study, please contact Dr. Martha Escobar at marthaescobar@oakland.edu, (248)370-2303. Because the data is saved as anonymous, it may not be possible to remove your child's data from the study if he/she withdraws after data have been collected

### **Questions about the Research**

If you have any questions about the research, please contact Dr. Mohammed A. Qazi, (334)728-2773, maqazi@mytu.tuskegee.edu, or Dr. Martha Escobar, (248)370-2303, marthaescobar@oakland.edu.

This project has been reviewed and approved by the Human Participant Review Committee at Tuskegee University. If you believe there is any infringement upon your child's rights as a research participant, you may contact the HPRC Chair, Dr. Stephen Sodeke at 334-724-8210.

### **Parent or Legal Guardian Permission:**

**You have read the information provided above. You have been given the opportunity to ask questions and these have been answered to my satisfaction. My signature below indicates that my child may participate in this research study. My child's assent to participate in this study will be sought.**

Please return one copy of this consent form and keep one copy for your records.

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Name of Child (please, print)

Sign if you agree, & Return

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Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

---

Date

If you do not agree, return blank

---

Name of Parent/Legal Guardian (Please Print)

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Mohammed A. Qazi

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5/18/2018

Signature of Person Obtaining Consent

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Date

Informed Assent for Students at the BUILDERS Academy

**Building Unique Inventions to Launch Discoveries, Engagement  
and Reasoning in STEM (BUILDERS)**

Investigators at Tuskegee University, in collaboration with investigators at Oakland University (MI) are doing a project that investigates the reasons why high school students select and remain to pursue activities related to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Because we will be collecting and analyzing data, this is considered to be a research study.

The purpose of this research study is to determine how to increase students' success in pursuing careers related to STEM. The data from this research will be used to better inform the Alabama school system on the type of interventions and programs that may increase academic and professional success of students in STEM. This research project is associated to the BUILDERS ITEST Academy, in which you are currently a participant.

You are asked to be in this research study because you are a high school student in the state of Alabama who has been accepted to the BUILDERS ITEST Academy. The investigators in charge of this study are Drs. Mohamed Qazi (Tuskegee University) and Martha Escobar (Oakland University). This study will take place at Tuskegee University. Participating in the study will take about 45 min of your time. During this study, you will answer survey questions about your experiences, impressions, and feelings with regard to your STEM classes. When you complete these surveys, we will ask for your permission to be contacted in one year to follow-up on the responses you provided. All your responses will be maintained separate from your name (you will be assigned a code number for data recording). Only the investigators will know your answers. Your parents and teachers will not. There are no foreseeable risks associated with the study.

Your parents (or Guardians) have agreed to let us invite you to be a part of this research study. However, you do not have to participate in this study if you do not want to. You can also change your mind at any time and decide not complete the survey, decline further contact, or email Dr. Escobar ([marthaescobar@oakland.edu](mailto:marthaescobar@oakland.edu)) to ask not to be contacted for that interview.

Please select one of the choices below. YOU WILL BE GIVEN A COPY OF THIS ASSENT FORM FOR YOU TO KEEP.

NO, I do not want to be in this study.

YES, I want to be in this study.

Select an  
option, sign  
& return

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Name or Signature of Participant

---

Date

---

Mohammed A. Qazi

Signature of Person Obtaining Consent

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5/18/2018

Date