**RESEARCH PARTICIPANT CONSENT FORM**

**Narrating the Public Liberal Arts: Council of Public Liberal Arts (COPLAC) Digital Research Seminar**

**Keene State College**

**Introduction and Purpose** This multi-campus research seminar documents the 1944 G.I. Bill and public access to higher education and, later, increasing public access to the liberal arts. The seminar is creating online chronicles of the life experiences of students, alumni, staff and faculty at the campuses at which students are studying—digital resources that capture the history and the prospects of the public liberal arts. As designers and editors of these digital archives, each student is exploring his/her place in higher education by making visible the history of the liberal arts at the institution in which they are studying.  
  
**What is the purpose of this study?** Student Abigail Shepherd will be creating a web site that focuses on how women shaped Keene State College (KSC) and how KSC shaped women. Abby is interested in the role of women and families, and the shape of experience of women in school—from the curriculum, preparing for work and life outside of school, and later the emergence of women’s studies as part of the College curriculum. Abby is creating an online archive of oral histories by alumni, faculty, staff and current students. She will interview 5-10 subjects and will edit the interviews. The audio interviews will be included on a web site that may include audio and video stories, images, maps and other digital artifacts.  
  
**Procedures** If you agree to participate in this research, Abby will conduct an interview with you at a time and location of your choice. The interview will involve questions about your knowledge, experience and feelings about Keene State College and the public liberal arts. The interviewshould last about 20–30 minutes. With your permission, Abby will make an audio, video or email recording of your interview. A typed script will be made and, if you desire, may be made available to you for editing. The tape/video/email, an edited transcript and a copy of this consent form will be made available for the purposes of research, for instructional use, for scholarly publication, or for other related purposes.

**Benefits** There is no direct benefit to you from taking part in this study. This study is meant to benefit future researchers by providing a base of information from which they can draw. The information will be available to you as well as other members of the general public on a public web site hosted by the Council on Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC).  
  
**Risk and/or Discomforts** As with all research, there is a chance that confidentiality could be compromised; however, we are taking precautions to minimize this risk. It is possible the subject matter may be embarrassing or difficult for you to speak about. Please be assured that you can stop at any time and/or refuse to answer any question that makes you uncomfortable.

**Confidentiality** Your interview will be handled as confidentially as possible. Individual names and other personally identifiable information will not be used unless you give explicit permission. To minimize the risks to confidentiality, we will store all data on a password-protected computer.

**Compensation** You will not be paid for taking part in this study.

**Rights Participation in research is completely voluntary**. You are free to decline to take part in the project. You can decline to answer any questions and are free to stop taking part in the project at any time. Your decision whether or not to participate will not prejudice your future relations with Keene State College and the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC)*.* If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw your consent and to discontinue participation at any time without prejudice.

**Questions About the Study** If you have any questions about this research, please feel free to contact the Principal Investigator, Dr. Mark C. Long, at [mlong@keene.edu](mailto:mlong@keene.edu) or Abigail Shepherd at [Abigail.shepherd@ksc.keene.edu](mailto:Abigail.shepherd@ksc.keene.edu).

If you have questions about your rights while taking part in the study or have concerns about the treatment of research participants, please call the Office of Sponsored Projects and Research at (603) 358-2427, email [irb@keene.edu](mailto:irb@keene.edu) or write to:

Office of Sponsored Projects and Research

Keene State College

115 Winchester Street

Keene, NH 03435-3510

**Documentation of Informed Consent**

I have had the opportunity to read this consent form and have the research study explained. I have had the opportunity to ask questions about the research study, and my questions have been answered. I am prepared to participate in the research study described above. I will be offered a copy of this consent form after I sign it.

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Participant’s Signature Date

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Participant’s Name Date

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Researcher’s Signature Date