The purpose of this form is to inform you, as a potential participant in the Wabash National Study of Liberal Arts Education, of the objectives of the project and the responsibilities/effort required of those who agree to participate. The Consent Question on the Registration Form refers to the information presented below and asks you to indicate whether or not you agree to participate.

**Study Description**

This study is designed to examine the practices and conditions that help students gain the knowledge and skills they and their colleges believe reflect the purposes of a college education. This study will be examining collegiate outcomes such as leadership, well-being, problem solving, multiculturalism, integrated learning, and moral reasoning. This study is being jointly administered by the Center of Inquiry in the Liberal Arts at Wabash College and the University of Iowa. ACT, Inc. is coordinating the collection of information from students.

This study is designed to benefit educators in many kinds of institutions who teach college students by increasing their understanding of the practices, programs, and pedagogies that help students succeed. At the same time, the study will help Carleton in its continuing efforts to provide its students with the best possible college experience. There is no risk associated with this project where the probability of harm or discomfort is greater than that encountered in daily life.

In this study, students will be asked to participate in three on-campus assessment sessions. The on-campus assessment sessions will take place in fall 2008, spring 2009, and spring 2012. These are not tests of academic achievement; they include measures of critical thinking, leadership, well-being, attitudes, college experiences, and similar measures. Students may skip any questions that ask information they do not wish to provide. The maximum amount of time it will take to complete each on-campus assessment session is about 120 minutes. During the first assessment session in fall 2008 students will also complete a Registration Form.

**Optional Follow-up Study**

If they agree, study participants may be contacted following graduation to respond to a variety of questions concerning their experiences after college. The details of the follow-up study are not yet set; the timing of this phase of the study has not yet been determined.

**Informed Consent**

I agree to participate in this study of how college students achieve selected collegiate outcomes. I understand that my participation is entirely voluntary and that I may withdraw at any time without penalty. I understand that my institution may send researchers information from my academic records or information about the academic programs and extra and co-curricular
activities in which I participate. I understand that my decision to participate or not participate in this study will not affect in any way my academic standing or record at my institution.

I understand further that all identifying information, such as my name and student ID number, will be removed before the information is given to the researchers at the Center of Inquiry, the University of Iowa, or other researchers contracted with the Center of Inquiry for analysis, either for this study or any future analyses.

I also understand that identifiable data from the study may be shared with a limited number of administrators or researchers at my institution. These administrators will keep all information in the strictest confidence; the information will only be used for the purposes of institutional assessment/educational research. These records will be secured in strict accordance with federal (such as FERPA), state, and local law, and will be treated like all other academic records. This information will in no way affect my academic standing or record at my institution. I also understand that my institution may choose to provide me with my individual assessment results.

Additionally, I understand that participating in this study will entail minimal, if any, risk; and that my name will not be used in any reporting of the results. Once the study is completed, the information will be kept in a locked and secured location.

If I have any questions before or during the project, I may contact the research investigator, Dr. Charles Blaich, at (765) 361-6331 or e-mail him at blaichc@wabash.edu. Or, I may contact James Fergerson, Director of Institutional Research and Assessment at jfergers@carleton.edu. If I have questions regarding my rights as a participant in research, I may contact the Chair of the Human Research Committee at Wabash College: Wabash College, Dean’s Office, PO Box 352, Crawfordsville, IN 47933 or send an e-mail to duffc@wabash.edu. Or, I may contact the Carleton College Institutional Review Board Chair for human subjects research, Professor Greg Marfleet at gmarflee@carleton.edu.

If you voluntarily agree to participate in this study, you will be asked to mark your agreement on the Consent Question on the Registration Form. You will also be asked on the Consent Question if you agree to participate in the optional follow-up study. Then, you will be asked to sign and date the form.