Recruiting Script – Beginning of the Semester

September 4, 2014

My name is Rebecca Reck. I am a graduate student in the Industrial and Enterprise Systems Engineering Department and I am not involved in the teaching or grading of GE320 this semester.

Professor Sreenivas, Professor Michael Loui, and I are conducting a research project to evaluate some new laboratory equipment. None of us are involved in teaching the course or determining your grades. Since this equipment is so new we would like to make a comparison evaluation between the new equipment and the existing equipment. You have a unique opportunity to participate in this research project. You will conduct the GE320 laboratory experiments using the existing equipment or the new kit. Each type of equipment and the experiments use a DC motor and are designed to reinforce the learning objectives of this course. However, they both use a different skill set. The existing equipment uses circuits and wires, while the new equipment will use more MATLAB and Simulink.

The Tuesday morning and evening sections as well as Thursday afternoon section will using the existing equipment. The Tuesday afternoon, Wednesday evening, and Thursday morning sections will use the new kit. The Thursday evening section has been reserved for either equipment, if needed to accommodate your preferences. You will have the opportunity this week to switch between sections if you would like. I will be making generalized observations of all sections throughout the semester.

In addition, exam scores and copies of laboratory reports will be collected. At the end of the semester you will be invited to take a concept inventory test and survey. This test will be given during a class session and should help you review for the final exam. This test and survey will have no impact on your final grade. At the start of the spring semester you also will be invited to participate in a focus group to discuss your experience in greater detail.

Regardless of what type of equipment you use, you will need to provide consent for us to collect data.

Your participation is entirely voluntary. You may refuse to participate or may discontinue participation at any time, by completing and dating a new form, without penalty; this form is available on the course Web site. Participation will not affect your grade in a course or status at this university. In the event of publication of this research, no personally identifying information will be disclosed.

Please take two copies of the consent form. At the bottom of one form, check one of the two boxes, print your official name, sign with your signature, and enter today’s date. Return the completed form to me, and keep the other for your records.

If you would like to review the information I just provided or access the consent form later in the semester, both will be posted on the course and laboratory websites.