Consent Form

Principal Investigator: Ellen Shanley, MBA, RDN, CDN, FAND
Student Investigators: Jennifer Ouellette and Carlee Putnam
Study Title: The utilization of Facebook and Text Messaging as an effort to increase mindful eating.

Introduction
You are invited to participate in a research study being done by the University of Connecticut. This is a research study being conducted to explore the relationship between mindfulness/mindless eating and technological interventions. Participants will have access to messages about mindful eating via Facebook or text messaging. Participants will self-select his/her preference.

Why is this study being done?
The study is being done to evaluate the effect of social media and technological communication on mindful eating patterns and behaviors and to see whether these forms of communication can have any impact on an individual's eating habits. The overall goal is to improve health behaviors and the ability to maintain or lose body weight.

What are the study procedures? What will I be asked to do?
Participants must view an orientation video prior to the beginning of the study which details the requirements of the program and topics presented each week. This orientation must be completed before signing this consent form. When consent is given, a pre-survey will be available on Qualtrics to fill out prior to beginning the program, as well as a post survey when the program ends. If you agree to be part of this project, you will be asked to complete the following:

- Complete screening survey, if able to participate you will be sent a link to complete the demographic questionnaire (approximately 5 minutes).
- In October 2018, you will be sent a link to complete a Food Liking Survey and physical activity survey (approximately 10 minutes)
- Physical activity questionnaire (approximately 5 minutes)
- Mindful eating survey (MEQ) (approximately 10 minutes)
- For ease of use, these surveys will all be presented to participants in one combined Qualtrics survey.
- Have access either to a personal Facebook account OR a personal cell phone capable of sending and receiving text messages.
- For the 12 week duration of the study: View post OR text five times weekly (M-F) at 7 am. If in the text messaging group, a reply is warranted to ensure that the text was viewed and read in its entirety.
- If interested, communicate in the Facebook group regarding the post for the topic of the week.
- At the conclusion of the 12 week program, you will be sent a link to complete
- Abbreviated demographic survey (approximately 5 minutes)
- Food Liking Survey and physical activity survey (approximately 10 minutes)
- Mindful Eating Questionnaire (MEQ) (approximately 10 minutes)
Follow-up survey questions (approximately 5 minutes)

What are the risks or inconveniences of the study?
You may not benefit directly from being in this study. We don’t believe that there are any risks to you for being in this study. Less than an hour may be required to complete each the pre- and post-survey questionnaires. A few minutes three days a week will be needed to view and read the text messages OR Facebook posts.

What are the benefits of the study?
This study will help us understand the helpfulness of text messaging and social media on mindful eating behaviors. You may be benefitted with healthier and more mindful eating patterns, as well as a better understanding of the way you eat.

Will I receive payment for participation? Are there costs to participate?
You will not receive any payment for participating in the study. There are no costs to participate in the study.

How will my personal information be protected?
The following procedures will be used to protect the confidentiality of your data. The researchers will keep all study records (including any codes to your data) online in password-protected sites. HuskyCT is a secure website and names will be used while the project is ongoing. Once the study is done the data will be entered into a spreadsheet and coded as indicated above The Excel spreadsheet will be on a password protected computer. The data will be kept for 2 years after the study ends. After the 2 years it will be destroyed.

Study records may be kept indefinitely and will be stripped of all identifiable data. All electronic files (e.g., database, spreadsheet, etc.) containing identifiable information will be password protected. Any computer hosting such files will also have password protection to prevent access by unauthorized users. Only the members of the research staff will have access to the passwords. Data that will be shared with others will be coded as described above to help protect your identity. At the conclusion of this study, the researchers may publish their findings. Information will be presented in summary format and you will not be identified in any publications or presentations.

For participants in the text message group, phone numbers will be kept confidential by turning off group messaging when texts are sent. This will allow each member of the group to receive a text message only from the sender and not be able to see other numbers that received the message.

We will do our best to protect the confidentiality of the information we gather from you but we cannot guarantee 100% confidentiality.

Can I stop being in the study and what are my rights?
You do not have to be in this study if you do not want to. If you agree to be in the study, but later change your mind, you may drop out at any time. There are no penalties or consequences of any kind if you decide that you do not want to participate.

**Whom do I contact if I have questions about the study?**

We will be happy to answer any question you have about this study. If you have further questions about this project or if you have a research-related problem, you may contact the student investigator(s) Jennifer Ouellette (860-428-5586) or Carlee Putnam (860-859-7628). If you have any questions concerning your rights as a research subject, you may contact the University of Connecticut Institutional Review Board (IRB) at 860-486-8802.

**Documentation of Consent:**

I have read this form and decided that I will participate in the project described above. Its general purposes, the particulars of involvement and possible hazards and inconveniences have been explained to my satisfaction. I understand that I can withdraw at any time. My signature also indicates that I have received a copy of this consent form.