



REQUIRED Cover Page

## APPLICATION FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT

\*\*All applicants please complete this cover page.

<b>Choose one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Creative activity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research activity <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Enhancement activity	<b>Date of Last PDG Award</b> (Semester and Year awarded): <u>N/A</u> <b>Date of ATU Faculty Appointment</b> (Semester and Year): <u>Fall, 1976; Fall, 2002; Fall, 2005</u>
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1. **Project Title:** Understanding Crystal Methamphetamine Use: Community Impact and Interventions for Vulnerable Populations

2. **Name of Principal Investigator/Project Director:** Co PI-Marti Wilkerson, Terri Earnest, Phd; Sean Huss

3. **School (abbrev):** LFA 4. **Department:** Behavioral Sciences

5. **Campus Mail Address:** WPN 367 6. **PI/PD Campus Phone:** 968-0466

7. **Amount Requested:** \$ 11,416 8. **Total Cost of Project:** \$ approximately \$ 138,154.00

9. **Does this project involve:** 1397 10. **Duration of Project:** 1/15/06-6/30/06

**Yes No**

- ☒ ☐ human subjects?  
☐ ☒ animals/animal care facility?  
☐ ☒ radioactive materials?  
☐ ☒ hazardous materials?  
☐ ☒ biological agents or toxins restricted by the USA Patriot Act?  
☒ ☐ copyright or patent potential?  
☐ ☒ utilization of space **not** currently available to the PI/PD?  
☐ ☒ the purchase of equipment/instrumentation/software currently **available** to the PI/PD?

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10596 SS  
300 hand

**NOTE:** If the answer is "yes" to any of the above questions, the investigator must attach appropriate documentation of approval or justification for use/purchase.

### SIGNATURES

[Signature] 12-16-05  
Department Head Date  
[Signature] 12-14-05  
Dean Date

**This Section to be completed by the Office of Academic Affairs**

PDC Committee Award Recommendation: Yes ☐ No ☐  
PDC Committee Proposal Rank: ☐ of ☐ Total Proposals.  
Recommendation of VPAA: Yes ☐ No ☐  
Recommendation of President: Yes ☐ No ☐  
Award Date:

## **B. Abstract**

In August 2004, the River Valley Methamphetamine Project (RVMP) organized as a grassroots multi-faceted community action demonstration project to respond to the methamphetamine (meth) epidemic in Arkansas' 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District which includes Pope, Johnson, and Franklin counties. The project included over 59 organizations, schools, law enforcement, mental health, child protection, faith based groups, and others. It was action based and focused locally upon increasing awareness about methamphetamine, reducing use, manufacture, and distribution of methamphetamine, and improving treatment for meth users (Wilkerson & Earnest, 2004). Although much was accomplished and the community became positively and collaboratively engaged in the RVMP, the project lacked a social science research component that provided an adequate knowledge base about the scope and depth of meth problems in the communities and counties of the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. The current research proposal aims at answering questions about the scope and depth of the meth epidemic in the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District with implications for statewide replication of the River Valley Methamphetamine Project. Expected results include improved community law enforcement response and recommendations for treatment strategies for those affected by the methamphetamine epidemic.

### **C. Purpose/ Objectives**

The purpose of the project is to close the knowledge gap regarding the underlying individual and social problems which complicate the multi-faceted methamphetamine epidemic in Arkansas.

The objectives of the project are: 1) To understand the scope and magnitude of public concern about meth for Pope, Johnson, and Franklin Counties in Arkansas, 2) To understand individual level reasons for meth production and use, 3) To determine the extent to which non-violent misdemeanors and felonies are associated with meth production or use, 4) To measure the extent to which current intervention strategies result in accomplished county-level goals for reducing meth production and use, and 5) To understand and facilitate community action as a response to meth use as well as offer recommendations and alternative strategies for identification and intervention of community and individual level problems.

### **D. Significance / Need**

Nationwide, methamphetamine has been declared a problem of epidemic proportions. Likewise, in Arkansas, methamphetamine-related problems are viewed as epidemic. The *National Drug Threat Assessment* lists Arkansas as one of the central states along with Missouri, Iowa, Indiana, and Illinois that collectively constitute a primary market for meth due to high demand and extensive regional distribution (U.S. Department of Justice, 2004). The *Arkansas Drug Threat Assessment* (U.S. Department of Justice, 2003) identified methamphetamine as a threat primarily due to ready availability.

Pope County, Arkansas, is a rural county located in northwest Arkansas and claims a population of approximately 55,000 of Arkansas' approximately 2.6 million residents (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). Russellville is the county seat of Pope County, population 23,682, and is

the home base of the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. It is also the home of Arkansas Tech University, which increases the city's population during the academic year by approximately 1,500 young adults (J. W. Watson, Arkansas Tech University, personal communication, December 2, 2004).

In the 5th Judicial District, in 2003 and the first five months of 2004, 52% of all felonies filed in the district involved either the use, distribution, or manufacture of meth. Between 1997 and 2003 there was a 114.6% increase in the number of methamphetamine cases filed in the district. When the focus narrowed to manufacturing cases (manufacture and possession of paraphernalia with intent to manufacture), the increase went from nine cases in 1997 to sixty-seven cases in 2003 – a 644% increase. In the first five months of 2004, there were 36 meth manufacturing cases filed (David Gibbons, Prosecuting Attorney, 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, personal communication, December 8, 2004).

While law enforcement agencies have been burdened by the meth epidemic, treatment programs and service agencies have also felt the impact of increased meth use. For example, in 2004, the local residential substance abuse facility indicated that approximately 80% of their population had meth related problems and the mental health clinic reported that over 50% of the clients treated had meth related problems (Wilkerson & Earnest, 2004).

This research project will contribute to the fields of sociology, criminal justice, and rehabilitation through obtaining quality information and knowledge which will serve to guide grassroots organizing and law enforcement efforts to contain the growing social problem often referred to as the “meth epidemic”.

#### **E. Process for Attainment of Objectives/ Goals**

Faculty researchers will conduct this research project. This project will include: 1) a survey of the general population of Pope, Johnson, and Franklin Counties to assess public

concerns over multiple issues including meth use and production, 2) Face to face interviews with inmate and bonded or released population to assess motivation, behaviors, and estimates of use and production of meth in Pope County (no student participation), 3) Assessment of background characteristics of those seeking treatment through review of secondary sources, and 4) Face to face interviews with treatment professionals through a “referral” technique to assess the adequacy of treatment offered in the community (See the attached Human Subjects approval statement in appendix A).

ATU students enrolled in SOC 3163 “Introduction to Social Research” (Sean Huss) and SOC/ CJ 3153 “Prisons and Corrections” (Terri Earnest) during the spring semester, 2006, will be involved in survey development, selection of random samples, secondary data input and analysis, survey administration, and on a very limited basis, interviews with treatment professionals in the community. Faculty will illustrate experiential and collaborative teaching through innovative teaching strategies involving multiple classes and the grassroots community organization (RVMP).

#### **F. Dissemination of Results**

Results will be shared with members of the River Valley Meth Project in May, 2006. Articles will be submitted to refereed sociological, criminal justice, and rehabilitation journals. Findings will be shared with the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Center for Alcohol and Drug Abuse, with the Arkansas Drug Director, with academic colleagues at the University of North Florida, and others as funding permits.

## I. Bibliography

United States Department of Justice (2004). *National Drug Threat Assessment*. Johnstown, PA: National Drug Intelligence Center.

United States Department of Justice (2003). *Arkansas Drug Threat Assessment*. Johnstown, PA: National Drug Intelligence Center.

United States Census Bureau (2000). Arkansas quick facts: Pope county, Arkansas. Retrieved November 17, 2004 from <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/05/05115.html>.

Wilkerson, M. & Earnest, T. (2004). Final Report: Pope County Methamphetamine Demonstration Project (PCMDP), Project Period: September 8, 2004 to December 1, 2004.

## PROPOSED BUDGET FACULTY RESEARCH GRANT

\*Note: This budget proposal is for the survey component and inmate questionnaire for Pope County only. Other funds have been requested from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Arkansas Drug Director. In kind support from student and community volunteers, and facility contributions from ATU are estimated to be \$29,680. It is estimated that CoPI's will expend 3 hours per week to complete the survey component and inmate questionnaires and have a report completed by June 20, 2006.

1.	Non-work study stipend	.1870	500.00
	Fringe benefits @ .4% (4/10 percent) of non-work study stipend		<del>20.00</del> 1.00
2.	*Supplies		
	• Survey development & printing @ \$3 for sample of 1000 (Pope only)	Estimated Price	3000.00
	• Final Report, 50 @ \$10	Estimated Price	500.00
	• Postage- Original mailing, two reminders, business reply @ \$5 for 1000	Estimated Price	5000.00
	• Photocopy expense, letterhead, envelopes, plain paper	Estimated Price	700.00
	• Meeting Expenses- For students to attend		
	• 3 local RVMP meetings, \$7.80x 35 students	Estimated Price	819.00
	• 1 @ 7.80 x 60 (students & community volunteers)	Estimated Price	468.00
	• Taxes @ .085	Estimated Price	109.00
	Total estimated supplies		\$ <u>11,116.00</u>
3.	Travel (please list travel expenditures by date and estimated costs):		
	Travel- multiple local trips to Pope Co. Detention Center, Counseling Associates, and Department of Health and Human Services between January 15, 2006 and June 10, 2006 for qualitative interviews.	Estimated Price	300.00
	Total estimated travel		\$ <u>300.00</u>
	TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET		\$ <u>11,416.00</u>
			11397

**Margaret G. Wilkerson**  
**Associate Professor - Rehabilitation Science**  
**Arkansas Tech University, WPN 367**  
**(479) 968-0466**

**Education and Certification**

MRC	Rehabilitation Counseling, Arkansas State University, 1972
LPC	Licensed Professional Counselor in Arkansas, 1986-Present

**Teaching and/or Administrative Experience**

2004- Present	Associate Professor, Rehabilitation Science
1992 – Present	Assistant Professor, Rehabilitation Science
1996 - Present	Coordinator & Principal Investigator, Child Welfare Emphasis, Academic Partnership in Child Welfare, Behavioral Sciences Department
1976 – 1992	Instructor, Rehabilitation Science; Director – ATU Youth Vocational Development Program

**Related and/or Consulting Experience**

2004 – Present	Facilitator and Evaluator – River Valley Methamphetamine Project
1996 - Present	Consultant for various community organizations
	\$ CASA of the 5 <sup>th</sup> Judicial District – Grant Writing
	\$ Family Preservation - Crawford Elementary School – Grant Writing
	\$ River Valley Violence and Abuse Prevention Task Force – Grant Writing
	\$ Family Preservation - Jasper Public Schools, Grant Writing
1996 - Present	Subcontracts
	\$ Child Welfare Partnership - \$1,720,236
	\$ 1998 - 2000 Mid South Academy - Child Welfare - \$62,998
	\$ 1999-2000 TEA Case Consultation - \$99,925

**Scholarly and Professional Activities**

Wilkerson, M. & Earnest, T. (2004). Final Report: Pope County Methamphetamine Demonstration Project (PCMDP), Project Period: September 8, 2004 to December 1, 2004.

**Professional Research Meetings Attended**

August 2002	Research Summit: Poverty in Arkansas, Little Rock, AR
April 2002	Social Work Research Center – Pre-Summit, Little Rock, AR



**Terri L. Earnest, PhD**  
**Assistant Professor- Sociology**  
**Arkansas Tech University, WPN 346**  
**(479) 498-6050**

**Classes Taught**

(Fall 2002 to present): Courses taught include Social Problems, Social Research, Prisons and Corrections, Probation and Parole, Communities, Social Deviance, and Minority Group Relations.

**Professional Development**

May and September 2005: Attended the Adult Drug Court Planning Initiative Training Program sponsored by the National Drug Courts Institute.

September 2000: Attended the Human Subjects Research Training Workshop sponsored by the Sponsored Programs Administration of Mississippi State University.

November 1998: Attended the Evaluation 98: Transforming Society Through Evaluation conference sponsored by the American Evaluation Association, Chicago, IL.

**Research Experience**

July 2005 to Present: Evaluator for the Drug Court Planning Team of the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District of the State of Arkansas.

October 2004 to Present: Co-Evaluator, Pope County Methamphetamine Demonstration Project (now the River Valley Meth Project).

October 1995 to May 2002: Co-Principal Investigator, Mississippi Crime and Justice Research Unit. Organized to conduct the evaluation of the Mississippi Drug Court Program and of the effects of the multijurisdictional drug task forces in the state.

**Publications and Research Reports**

Wilkerson, Marti and Terri Earnest. 2004. Final Report: Pope County Methamphetamine Demonstration Project. For the State of Arkansas, Drug Director, Governor's Office.

Dunaway, R. Gregory, Terri L. Earnest, Jonathan Reed, and Peter B. Wood. 1999. Evaluating Mississippi's Multijurisdictional Drug Task Forces. Final Report for the Department of Public Safety, Division of Public Safety Planning, Governor's Office, Jackson, MS.

Additional reports as co-author:

- < An Impact Analysis of Mississippi's Multijurisdictional Drug Task Force Program on Drug-Related Crime and Violence
- < An Evaluation of Drug Control Programs in Mississippi
- < An Assessment of Multijurisdictional Drug Task Forces in Mississippi
- < Multijurisdictional Drug Task Forces in Mississippi: Are They Making A Difference?

## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

**Sean T. Huss**

**1508 Highland Ave. Apt. B**

**Knoxville, TN 37916**

**(865) 540-1479**

**shuss@utk.edu**

### **Education:**

- Ph.D. – Sociology                      The University of Tennessee – Knoxville; Anticipated May 2006.  
[Concentrations in Social Psychology and Research Methods, with a Minor in Statistics.]
- M.A. – Sociology                      The University of Tennessee – Knoxville; Received May 1998.  
[Concentrations in Social Psychology, Criminology, and Research Methods.]
- B.A. - Sociology & Anthropology      The University of Arkansas - Little Rock; Received May 1995. [Double Major]

### **Research/Consulting Experience:**

Housing and Urban Development HOPE VI Project—February, 2004  
Human Dimensions Survey Research Lab The University of Tennessee – Knoxville; July 2003 to Present  
Estimations of Elderly Population and Elderly Population Poverty Levels for The State of Tennessee - April to May 2003  
Estimations of Disabled, Non-Institutional Population for The State of Tennessee - April to May 2003  
Patient Psychological Evaluation/Pain Experience and Surgical Outcomes - April 2003  
International Forestry and Food Services Consortium through the USDA - March 2003  
Political Campaign Survey Consultant- January 2002 to Present  
Partner H & C Research Group - January 2002 to Present  
Centers for Toxicological and Environmental Health - November 2002  
University of Tennessee Research Assistant and Methods/Statistics Consultant - Fall 2002 to Present  
Research Assistant at Energy, Environment, and Resources Center - Fall 2001 to Summer 2003  
Methodist Conference Survey of Membership (Methods/Statistical Consultant) - Fall 2000  
Estimations of Disabled, Non-Institutional Population for the State of Tennessee - Fall 2000  
The Hacker Project - Spring 1997 to Present  
Community Attitudes on Medical Corridor Expansion - Spring 1995  
University of Arkansas, Little Rock Liberal Arts Program Evaluation - Spring 1995  
Lab Assistant to State Forensic Anthropologist - Summer 1994 to Spring 1995  
National Women's Shoe Wear Study (Methods/Statistical Consultant) - Summer 1994 to Spring 1995  
Effects of Using Blood Substitutes in Joint Replacement Surgery (Methods/Statistical Consultant) - Summer 1994

### **Specialized Training:**

Multiple seminars on specialized and advanced statistical analytic and survey research techniques at University of Tennessee, University of Michigan, and University of North Carolina. A complete list may be provided upon request.

## **APPENDIX A**

## **Marti Wilkerson**

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**From:** Eldon Clary [eldon.clary@mail.atu.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 22, 2005 8:41 AM  
**To:** marti.wilkerson@atu.edu  
**Subject:** Human subjects

The proposal "Understanding crystal methamphetamine use: Community impact and intervention in vulnerable populations" has been approved by expedited review with one change. The informed consent statement should include the phrase about contacting my office with any questions concerning their rights as subjects.

Eldon Clary, Jr.  
Dean of Graduate School  
Arkansas Tech University  
Tomlinson, Room 113D  
Russellville, AR 72801

**RIVER VALLEY METH PROJECT  
INFORMED CONSENT**

To Interview Participant:

We are researchers at Arkansas Tech University, and we are conducting a study to determine the magnitude of and community impact of methamphetamine. We are coming to you for your expert opinions about some different issues related to our interests. We would appreciate it very much if you would take time to answer our questions.

Answering the questions should only take about one to two hours of your time. You do not have to participate if you do not want to. You may refuse to answer any or all questions, and you may also stop answering the questions at any time. You will not be penalized in any way if you refuse to participate. Your participation, non-participation, or responses will not in any way have an effect on your parole or your sentence. Finally, we will not ask questions that will expose you to undue legal risk.

The information you provide us with today will be coded so that there will be no way to match your name with your answers. The identifying information will be kept in a separate physical place from your answers and will be destroyed as soon as the information from them is entered into the computer. In short, we are going to make sure that we maintain confidentiality of all information shared.

I think you will find this interesting and a bit different from other studies in which you may have been involved. If you have any questions or concerns as the interview progresses, please feel free to express them as we talk, or contact us at the address given on the information sheet we will provide to you at the beginning of the interview. In addition, if you have any questions about your rights as a subject, please contact the office of Dr. Eldon Clary, Jr., Dean of the Graduate School, Arkansas Tech University, 113D Tomlinson, Russellville, AR 72801; or call the office at 968-0418.

I fully understand the above information, and I agree to participate in the study.

Print name

---

Signature

Date

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**From:** Eldon Clary [mailto:eldon.clary@mail.atu.edu]

**Sent:** Thursday, January 12, 2006 9:44 AM

**To:** 'Terri Earnest'

**Subject:** RE: revised informed consent

The revised consent form looks good. It is approved as you have submitted.

Eldon Clary

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Terri Earnest [mailto:terri.earnest@mail.atu.edu]

**Sent:** Thursday, January 12, 2006 8:36 AM

**To:** 'Eldon Clary'

**Subject:** RE: revised informed consent

Hi Dr. Clary,

Sorry I am just now responding. I was in a workshop all day yesterday. I have created a new file in Word. Sorry about the last one. I have a habit of doing a lot of work in Word Perfect. If this does not open, let me know and I will fax a copy. Have a good day.

Terri

**From:** Eldon Clary [mailto:eldon.clary@mail.atu.edu]

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 11, 2006 3:13 PM

**To:** 'Terri Earnest'

**Subject:** RE: revised informed consent

Terri

Could you fax or send me hard copy. I cannot open the attachment. Our fax is 964-0542.

Eldon Clary

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Terri Earnest [mailto:terri.earnest@mail.atu.edu]

**Sent:** Monday, January 09, 2006 11:13 AM

**To:** eldon.clary@atu.edu

**Cc:** marti.wilkerson@atu.edu

**Subject:** revised informed consent

Dr. Clary,

Attached is the revised informed consent for the "Understanding Crystal Methamphetamine (Meth) Use: Community Impact and Intervention in Vulnerable Populations" proposal. If you would please let us know if this is sufficient. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your help in expediting this document.

Terri Earnest and Marti Wilkerson