Dear Member of the Class of 2019:

Hello! We are delighted to have you as a new member of the Whiting School of Engineering at Johns Hopkins University. We are writing to inform you of an opportunity to participate in a research study that we are conducting to learn more about the spatial reasoning skills of undergraduate engineering students.

We would like to invite you to participate in a short spatial assessment battery. To participate, you simply log on to our Blackboard website (blackboard.jhu.edu) using your JHED ID and password. You can also access Blackboard through the Bb link on the portal. On Blackboard you will join an organization titled *Spatial Assessment 2015*. You will see that the assessment is made up of a few short activities. These activities are designed to be fun and challenging, and will ask you to perform a variety of spatial reasoning tasks. The entire spatial assessment should take you about 30 minutes. However, you do not need to complete the entire assessment in one sitting and may instead complete the individual activities at your convenience by returning to Blackboard.

Your participation in this research project is not mandatory, and your decision to complete the spatial assessment will in no way reflect on your standing in the engineering program. Only the researchers involved in the study will know your identity, which will not be disclosed to other professors in the university. All tracking of data will be done with code numbers.

All students who complete the assessment will be invited to complete a similar assessment at a later date. As a way of thanking students for their time, all students who complete both assessments will be awarded a *gift card of $5.00*. In addition, students who complete both assessments will be entered into a raffle to win one *$100.00 gift card*!

Students completing the initial assessment may also be eligible to participate in a 1-credit hands-on training course during the Fall semester (notification of this opportunity will be sent prior to July 1).

This research will not move forward without the help of volunteers like yourself. We are interested in learning about spatial abilities prior to the start of collegiate education, and you are a member of a unique group with which we would very much like to work. If you have any questions about the study, please email Amy Stephens. Thank you for your time, and we look forward to meeting you in the fall!

Best,

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