More detailed information on the assessment project

Tell me more about the items students will be answering. The concepts items are a mix of verbatim and revised items from the CAOS and GOALS assessment tests, along with a few of our own items. The attitudes items come from the Survey of Attitudes Towards Statistics (http://www.evaluationandstatistics.com/view.html). Examples of the conceptual questions from last year are on the sample instructor report here. Please note that we have made some modest changes to the concepts items for this year and are currently in the process of finalizing those changes and getting them entered into the survey administration system.

Can I invite my colleagues to participate? Yes! Please share the sign-up link with anyone who might be interested.

How can I ensure a 75% response rate from my class? Most instructors give their students extra credit, a few homework points or require students to participate. This, combined with mentioning it a few times in class, is usually sufficient to achieve at least a 75% response rate. It would be great if students did the pre/post test items during class time, but we realize that may not be feasible.

What about IRB? Having students in your class take the survey as part of your class should not warrant IRB approval because it is under the umbrella of your class. The part of the project that does require IRB approval involves our use of the data for research. Dordt College hosts the NSF-grant and the data collection/storage, we have received IRB approval at Dordt for the project, which should be sufficient for many participants. As part of this IRB approval we have provided all student participants an ‘opt-out of research use’ option on the front page of the survey or a complete opt-out option (you tell us which you’d prefer when you sign up to participate). If a student checks the box, their data will not be used for research purposes. If you believe your institution may require additional IRB approval locally we would be happy to provide any other information you may need. Please contact Nathan Tintle (nathan.tintle@dordt.edu) if you have additional questions.