

**Title of Research Study:** The Fargo-Moorhead Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

**This study is being conducted by:** Dr. Joshua E Marineau, associate professor of management, department of management and marketing, North Dakota State University College of Business.

**Why am I being asked to take part in this research study?**

You are being asked to participate because you have unique knowledge and experience related to entrepreneurship, new business ventures, and start-ups in the Fargo-Moorhead area.

**What is the reason for doing the study?** This study will help us better understand entrepreneurship, specifically the different individuals involved in development, production, and support of new business ideas, product innovation, and also support the thriving entrepreneurship culture. This study will also help us understand how the COVID pandemic has affected entrepreneurial activity and identify changes in how individuals interact and relate to each other.

**What will I be asked to do?** You are being asked to participate in a survey where the researcher will ask you to answer some questions about your experiences and opinions of the Fargo-Moorhead entrepreneurial scene. You will also be asked about people that you know and work within the FM area. You will also be asked about how COVID has affected entrepreneurial activity and support in the FM area.

**Where is the study going to take place, and how long will it take?** The survey will take about 45 minutes. The survey will be completed over a video (Zoom) call.

**What are the risks and discomforts?** There are no real risks associated with participation in this research. However, it is not possible to identify all potential risks in research procedures, but the researcher(s) have taken reasonable safeguards to minimize any known risks to the participant.

**What are the benefits to me?** It can be beneficial to take some time to reflect on your experiences and role(s) in the entrepreneurship scene, new businesses, and innovation. This can provide personal insights and helpful reflection. However, you may not get any benefit from being in this research study.

**What are the benefits to other people?** The findings of this study can help scholars and future entrepreneurs understand the processes and roles involved in a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem. Learning about how individuals perceive the process of entrepreneurship can help us improve support systems and explain and replicate positive results in other locations. Learning about how individuals perceive the entrepreneurial process can also help find opportunities and challenges to successful new ventures, business, and development of an innovation culture for others to learn from.

**Do I have to take part in the study?** Your participation in this research is your choice. If you decide to participate in the study, you may change your mind and stop participating at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are already entitled.

**What are the alternatives to being in this research study?** Instead of being in this research study, you can choose not to participate.

**Who will see the information that I give?**

We will keep private all research records that identify you. Any information you provide will be anonymized and your name and personally identifying information will be removed, and only a random ID number will be directly

associated with your data. We may publish the results of the study; however, we will keep your name and other identifying information private.

For example, your name will be kept separate from your research records and these two things will be stored in different places under lock and key. And, once the study is over, any personally identifiable information linking you to the study will be deleted or destroyed.

If you withdraw before the research is over, your information will be retained in the research until the study is over, at which time all personally identifiable information will be deleted or destroyed, and we will not collect additional information from you.

**Can my taking part in the study end early?** Yes, if you choose not to continue to participate.

**What if I have questions?**

Before you decide whether to accept this invitation to take part in the research study, please ask any questions that might come to mind now. Later, if you have any questions about the study, you can contact the researcher, Dr. Joshua E. Marineau at [joshua.marineau@ndsu.edu](mailto:joshua.marineau@ndsu.edu) or (859) 312-2875

**What are my rights as a research participant?**

You have rights as a participant in research. If you have questions about your rights, or complaints about this research you may talk to the researcher or contact the NDSU Human Research Protection Program by:

- Telephone: 701.231.8995 or toll-free 1.855.800.6717
- Email: [ndsu.irb@ndsu.edu](mailto:ndsu.irb@ndsu.edu)
- Mail: NDSU HRPP Office, NDSU Dept. 4000, PO Box 6050, Fargo, ND 58108-6050.

The role of the Human Research Protection Program is to see that your rights are protected in this research; more information about your rights can be found at: [www.ndsu.edu/irb](http://www.ndsu.edu/irb) .

**Documentation of Informed Consent:**

You are freely making a decision whether to be in this research study. Signing this form means that

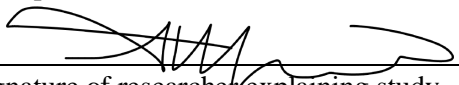
1. you have read and understood this consent form
2. you have had your questions answered, and
3. you have decided to be in the study.

You will be given a copy of this consent form to keep.

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Your signature

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Date

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Your printed name

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of researcher explaining study

4/14/21  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Joshua Marineau  
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Printed name of researcher explaining study