Dear MIT Engineering Doctoral Women,

I am conducting a study as part of my dissertation research that compares and contrasts the doctoral experiences and degree progress for women in Engineering with those of women in Education, and I am writing to ask for your participation as a female doctoral student pursuing an Engineering doctoral degree at MIT. I am looking for women doctoral students enrolled full-time in their second, third, fourth, or fifth year or beyond of doctoral study in the School of Engineering at MIT. The nature of your participation in this study would require 3 1-hour individual interviews with me, and a 1-hour focus group with other Engineering women at MIT facilitated by me.

Women who participate in my research study will be compensated $75 in Gift Cards for the interviews and a free lunch or dinner while participating in the focus group. The interviews and focus group are scheduled to take place between May and August 2012 at MIT. With the exception of the first interview which must be in-person, these interviews can be conducted using video-conferencing (e.g. Skype) if you will not be on-campus at MIT during these months.

Because women are underrepresented as doctoral students in male-dominated fields such as Engineering, I am interested in learning more about your unique doctoral student experiences as a woman studying Engineering, as well as the supports and barriers you experience as you continue to pursue your doctoral degree.

If you are interested in participating in this important project, please click on this link https://bclynch.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_afl7oVsbvM6hse8 to fill out a 6-question participant eligibility form. Once you submit the form, I will be in touch with you shortly to provide you with additional information about your participation in the study.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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