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Examining Potential Group-level Benefits of Capitalization Support within Student Organizations: Undergraduate Research Experience for Freshman Psychology Majors in PSY 112

For this study, I will invite freshman undergraduate Psychology majors enrolled in my PSY 112 course to take part in collecting data for a project focused on understanding the potential group-level benefits of receiving support for personal positive events from others within a student organization. Past work has shown both individual and interpersonal benefits of receiving support from others when good things happen (“capitalization”) (E.g., Gable & Reis, 2010). However, I have initial pilot data suggesting that these benefits may also include group or organizational benefits if individuals are receiving positive event support from those within the same organization. The proposed study will examine if changes in capitalization support from others within the student organization are associated with changes in how satisfied, commitment, and identified the individual feels with the organization over time (using a longitudinal design). Furthermore, we will examine if capitalization support receipt is associated with greater trust in the organization and more willingness to seek mental health services and explore whether capitalization is a stronger predictor of these outcomes than negative event support. This project will allow students to gain data collection experience in a class-relevant topic while also encouraging them to interact with various Pace organizations.