

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO SCHOOL DROPOUT:
A COMPARISON OF HOW TEACHERS AND STUDENTS PERCEIVE
THE REASONS FOR DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL

A Dissertation

by

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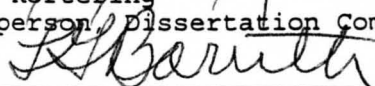
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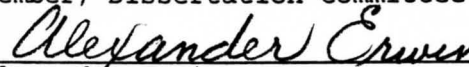
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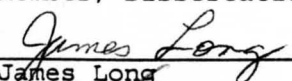
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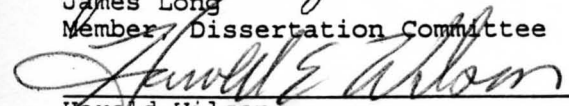
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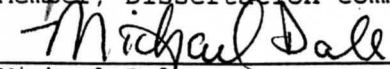

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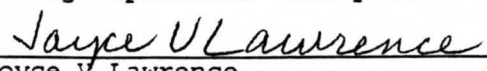

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ABSTRACT

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO SCHOOL DROPOUT:

A COMPARISON OF HOW TEACHERS AND STUDENTS PERCEIVE
THE REASONS FOR DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL. (December 1996)

Austin Nosakhare Obasohan

Dissertation Chairperson: Larry Kortering, Ed.D.

This study examined how dropout students and teachers perceive the reasons behind school dropout and school dropouts in general. The study specifically compared their perceptions on three factors known to contribute to school dropout (i.e., student-related, family-related, and school-related factors) and one factor involving general perceptions.

For background purposes, the study reviewed related research on student-related factors, family-related factors, and school-related factors affecting school dropout. Since the research also dealt with general perceptions, the study also includes a review of several studies on the role of student and teacher perceptions.

Study participants included 58 dropout students and 63 teachers at a large rural North Carolina high school during the 1994/5 academic year. The teachers responded to a

survey, whereas the dropout students responded through a phone interview.

The study findings revealed that the dropout students and teachers had significantly different perceptions in terms of student-related and family-related factors affecting school dropout and their general perceptions of school dropouts. The groups were comparable in terms of their perceptions of the school-related factor affecting school dropout. The differences in perceptions suggest the need for continued dialogue and research on the reasons for dropping out of school. The difference between the groups' general perceptions of school dropouts also warrants additional research given the role that these perceptions play in the implementation of dropout prevention programs.