

**Youth Boardgaming League: A New Program for Student Life and Success**

**Researcher:**

Greg Thatcher, Ph.D.

Department of Public Health, Fresno State

**Background:** Recent research in the communication field has proven that boardgaming can teach adolescents valuable life skills. Boardgaming has also been proven to develop leadership skills, build critical thinking skills, and help develop skills referred to as “executive function.” These are the skills that educators and researchers believe lead to a person’s ability to formulate and pursue goals.

**Method:** The Youth Boardgaming League is a new program developed by Dr. Greg Thatcher that introduces European-designed boardgames that address Common Core components through after-school activities. This presentation represents the first part of an effectiveness evaluation of the program. Specifically, the presentation provides baseline information on 92 middle school students engaged with the program in the Central Valley.