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Dr. Carolyn Gentle-Genitty's Groundbreaking School Bonding Instrument to Power Global Study on Youth Wellbeing

Indianapolis, IN – Dr. Carolyn Gentle-Genitty, esteemed founder of Attendance USA and inaugural Dean of Founder's College at Butler University, continues to shape the global landscape of school attendance and youth wellbeing. Her pioneering work, the **Perception of School Social Bonding (PSSB)** instrument, has been validated after 15 years of rigorous research, culminating in a [landmark study published](#) with international experts Gil Keppens and Chris Kearney. This tool is now recognized worldwide for its role in understanding school climate and fostering positive educational environments. Since 2009 the American Psychological Association has endorsed the PSSB as one of its [national PsycTests](#).

PSSB, developed by Dr. Gentle-Genitty, is a 10-item self-report questionnaire designed to measure a students' sense of bonding to their school. It has three subscales: attachment, involvement, and belief and assess different aspects of school social bonding. It is used in research and practice to evaluate how connected students feel to their school community. The PSSB instrument, highlighted by the International Network for School Attendance (INSA) and made freely accessible on their website, is lauded for its scientific rigor and practical impact. Dr. Gentle-Genitty's commitment to open access and global collaboration has made the PSSB a cornerstone for researchers and practitioners seeking to improve student engagement and reduce absenteeism.

In a testament to the instrument's international relevance, Dr. Gentle-Genitty has entered into a new partnership with a cross-national research team led by Dr. Lukasz Szwejka, Assistant Professor at the Institute of Education, Jagiellonian University (Krakow, Poland), University of Rzeszow (Poland), Samarkand State University (Uzbekistan), Liverpool John Moores University (UK), and the University of Colombo (Sri Lanka). The collaboration aims to adapt and translate the PSSB for use in an ambitious comparative study on youth

delinquency and psychosocial risk factors, focusing on adolescents in residential care and youth correctional facilities.

The pilot research will span four countries—Poland, England, Uzbekistan, and Sri Lanka—with the PSSB instrument being translated into Polish, Uzbek, Sinhala, and Tamil. The translation process will adhere to internationally recognized standards, including back-translation and expert consultation, ensuring the instrument’s cultural and linguistic integrity.

The research project aims to examine and compare key risk factors for delinquent behavior among adolescents placed in youth residential care institutions (such as rehabilitation centers or correctional facilities) in four countries: Poland, Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka, and England. The study will test and integrate selected criminological theories (e.g. social control theory, strain theory, differential association theory) by applying standardized self-report instruments, adapted culturally to each country. The pilot study will support future cross-national comparisons and contribute to evidence-based youth rehabilitation practices.

Dr. Gentle-Genitty’s vision and leadership continue to inspire transformative research and practice worldwide. Her work empowers educators, policymakers, and researchers to understand and improve the social bonds that are critical to student success and wellbeing.

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About Dr. Carolyn Gentle-Genitty

Dr. Carolyn Gentle-Genitty is a renowned scholar, social work educator, and global advocate for school attendance and youth development. As founder of Attendance USA and inaugural Dean of Founder’s College at Butler University, she has dedicated her career to advancing evidence-based solutions for student engagement and school climate.

For more information about the PSSB instrument and Dr. Gentle-Genitty’s work, visit:

[Attendance USA](#)

[International Network for School Attendance](#)