

# Introduction to Rural America

## Instructor Guidelines

**By Professor Meredith Redlin by South Dakota State University**

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

#### Skill

After using this module, students will gain skills in:

- Learning about survey methodology and sampling methods
- Forming testable hypotheses using quantitative data
- Quantitative writing
- Translating data findings to inform decision making

The following materials illustrate an exercise of simplified recreation of study data. The text used as the basis for this exercise is *Children of the Land: Adversity and Success in Rural America*, by Glen H. Elder, Jr. and Rand D. Conger (University of Chicago Press, 2000).

In this exercise, students respond to some of the survey questions used in Elder and Conger's study. A data set is then compiled by the instructor. Students then take on the role as researchers and use their own class data for hypothesis formulation and testing. Students devise original hypotheses using their choice of variables from the data set. The instructor then runs the appropriate test for their hypothesis, and provides students with results (most often crosstabulation tables or reports of means) for final analysis.

The exercise materials include:

1. Selected survey questions
2. Data Analysis paper assignment
3. Report of means for scale items from student surveys
4. Report of frequencies for other measures from student surveys.