PARENTAL AND PEER ATTACHMENT AS PREDICTORS OF THE DEGREE OF EXPERIENCING EMERGING ADULTHOOD AMONG UNDERGRADUATES BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18-20: A STANDARD MULTIPLE REGRESSION STUDY (153 pp.)

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The purpose of this study was to identify which combination of factors associated with parent attachment, peer attachment, sex, age, ethnicity, number of undergraduate credit hours, high school graduation date, relationship status, residential status, mental health diagnosis, primary caregivers, perceived closeness of parent attachment, and perceived closeness of peer attachment predict the degree of experiencing emerging adulthood among undergraduate students between the ages of 18 to 20. This study included 1,614 participants; participation included the completion of demographic data, the Inventory of Parent and Peer Attachment (IPPA), and the Inventory of the Dimensions of Emerging Adulthood (IDEA). An alpha of 0.01, power of .80, and a small effect size were maintained throughout this study. A standard multiple regression design and a stepwise multiple regression design were used.

Results showed that the multiple regression equations were statistically significant for both genders. Using standard multiple regression, peer trust explained a unique proportion of the variance for males while peer communication, peer alienation, and parent alienation explained a unique proportion of the variance for females. Using stepwise multiple regression, peer trust and peer alienation explained a unique proportion

of the variance for males, while peer communication and peer alienation explained a unique proportion of the variance for females. Thus, results suggest that parent and peer attachment predicted the degree of experiencing emerging adulthood as measured by this study.