

Memorandum of Understanding
To Facilitate the Successful Transition of Students Between
Pennsylvania Community Colleges
And
The Pennsylvania State University Commonwealth Campuses

This Memorandum of Understanding is between The Pennsylvania State University on behalf of Penn State Abington, Penn State Altoona, Penn State Behrend, Penn State Berks and University College which has academic authority for Penn State Beaver, Brandywine, DuBois, Fayette, Greater Allegheny, Hazleton, Lehigh Valley, Mont Alto, New Kensington, Schuylkill, Scranton, Shenango, Wilke-Barre and York (“PSU Commonwealth Campuses”), and the Pennsylvania Community Colleges (“PA Community Colleges”).

PURPOSE OF AGREEMENT

PA Community Colleges and PSU Commonwealth Campuses desire to strengthen their longstanding relationship and enhance their respective and shared educational opportunities with a goal of improving student completion and degree attainment.

More specifically, the goals are to:

- Individual PSU Commonwealth Campuses and individual PA Community Colleges will renew or enter into new articulation agreements.
- The articulation agreements will include parallel program-to-program curricular pathways that enable PA Community College students enrolled in AA, AFA, AS and AAS programs to transfer 60 credits toward degree completion in specifically named BS, BA programs offered by PSU Commonwealth Campuses.
- Improve student success, associate/baccalaureate graduation rates and time-to-degree baccalaureate degree rates.
- Enhance academic advising and transition services to reduce transfer barriers by working to uncover barriers to transition across the institutions.
- Demonstrate a commitment to affordable access.
- Track the progress and success of transition students within and across institutions, disaggregating data by race/ethnicity, Pell, and first- generation status to ensure knowledge of equity gaps.

The Parties will endeavor to collaborate on the following:

1. Development of Articulation Agreements between individual Penn State Campuses and individual PA Community Colleges.

Each distinct PA Community College and PSU Commonwealth College will establish a separate articulation agreement based on a pre-approved standard template to ensure consistent standards between the parties. The terms of the agreement will include admissions requirements,

applicable academic programs, evaluation of prior learning credits, access to scholarships, and advising and transition services.

Each articulation agreement will name specific Community College associate (AA, AFA, AS and AAS) programs and parallel PSU Commonwealth Campus baccalaureate (BA and BS) programs.

Program-to-Program curricular plans will map degree requirements and will aim to articulate 60 credits of associate degree requirements to meet 60 credits of Penn State baccalaureate degree requirements. Any exception to the 60-credit guideline must be approved by academic leadership of the PA Community College and the Penn State Commonwealth Campus.

Recognizing that students transfer between PA Community Colleges and Penn State and between Penn State to the PA Community Colleges, the evaluation of transfer of courses/credits will be processed pursuant to policies and procedures of the institution that will be accepting the transfer courses/credits.

PA Community Colleges and PA Commonwealth Campuses agree to exchange course syllabi and course outlines to support the evaluation of courses and development of the program-to-program pathways.

2. **Dual Admission Program.** PA Community College students who have earned a high school diploma and who are enrolled in an associate degree program at a PA Community College may request dual admission to a Penn State Commonwealth Campus by submitting a non-binding *Intent to Enroll Form* during their enrollment at a PA Community College. Students will receive a conditional offer of admission to a PA Commonwealth Campus. During the last semester of enrollment at the PA Community College dual admitted students will complete and submit a transfer application via MyPennState. The admissions application fee will be waived. Students will be guaranteed admission into a bachelor's degree at a Penn State University College Commonwealth Campus if the following eligibility requirements are met:

- Complete a Penn State Application for Undergraduate Admissions to a PSU Commonwealth Campus.
- Submit a final transcript from all institutions of higher education attended.
- Earn a minimum 2.0- cumulative grade point average from all previously attended institutions of higher education.
- Be in good academic standing, free of probation.
- Meet the entry -to -major requirements as specified by Penn State.

PSU Commonwealth Campuses will report monthly the names of any students who submit the *Intent to Enroll Form* to the PA Community College transfer advisers to strengthen academic advising during the student's enrollment at the PA Community College.

3. **Enhanced Academic Advising and Transition Services.** PA Community Colleges and PSU Commonwealth Campuses will work in partnership to develop a plan to strengthen academic advising and transition support services.

PA Community College academic advisers will refer to the approved program-to-program pathways when advising dual admitted students to ensure that students take the appropriate community courses before transferring to a PSU Commonwealth Campus.

PSU Commonwealth Campuses will be permitted to support the transition of students enrolled at a Community College via outreach initiatives that might include advising services at the PA Community College or through invitation to visit the PSU Commonwealth Campus.

PSU Commonwealth Campuses will offer an academic orientation to transferring students for the purpose of providing academic advising, and orientation to academic and technology resources, student life and career services, and financial aid and billing information.

4. **Commitment to Affordability.** Penn State participates in all the major federal and state student aid programs. Scholarships are awarded based on merit and/or financial need as defined by the specific scholarship program. Students who submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to Penn State are considered for scholarships awarded by the Penn State Office of Student Aid.

PA Community College students who transfer to a Penn State Commonwealth Campus will earn a Penn State degree at considerable savings, paying \$5,000 to \$8,000 less (depending on the campus) in annual, full-time, upper division tuition as compared to Penn State's University Park campus.

Penn State will participate in the RaiseME Transfer Scholarship initiative and will provide grants up to a maximum of \$7,000 to PA Community College students who meet the following eligibility requirements will receive the grant upon transfer:

- Follow PSU Commonwealth Campuses at RaiseMe,
- Enroll and earn micro-scholarships during enrollment at a PA Community College,
- Be a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident,
- Maintain a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.8; and,
- File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) annually.

PA Community Colleges will agree to support and promote the RaiseMe Transfer initiative on their campuses.

5. **General Provisions.**

Management of Activities. Activities listed in the memorandum will be initiated primarily by academic units within each PA Community College and PSU Commonwealth Campus and in accordance with the respective institutional administrative and academic policies and procedures.

Confidentiality of Student Records. All education records pursuant to the terms of this MOU are confidential and shall be created, disclosed, and maintained pursuant to the provisions of FERPA.

Regular Meetings. Staff, faculty and administration of the institutions will meet at least once per semester to identify the practices they share that enable the successful transition from one institution to another, uncovering administrative hurdles that may affect first-generation, low-income, adult and minoritized students most severely.

Evaluation of Collaboration. Representatives of each institution will meet each semester to facilitate the initiatives presented in this agreement. Any recommendations for revisions will be presented in writing and agreed upon by both Parties.

As part of the review of the collaboration, Penn State will provide five years of data annually showing enrollment and completion by community college students at the University and will disaggregate the data to show the impact on minoritized student population.

6. Mutual Terms and Conditions.

Term, Amendment, Renewal and Termination. This MOU will become effective on the date of the last signature, for a period of five years. Each Party shall have the right to terminate this MOU by providing written notice to the other Party one year prior to the effective date of termination. It is agreed that if terminated, the Parties will honor the terms of the MOU for students already participating in an activity listed within the agreement. An individual PA Community College may amend or terminate its participation in this MOU without affecting the participation of the remaining Community Colleges. If The Pennsylvania State University terminates or amends this MOU, it may be terminated or amended for all Commonwealth Campuses.

Use of Name, Logo, and Mark. Neither Party may use the name, logo, or mark of the other in any promotional or advertising materials (including but not limited to website postings, public announcements and program brochures) without the prior written consent of the other Party pursuant to each Party's policies.

Non-Exclusivity. Each party hereto shall be free to enter into other agreements, such as this Agreement, with other parties, as each deems appropriate for its respective manner of business.

Nondiscrimination. Without being deemed an admission of their status as government contractors or as non-government contractors, the parties agree: (i) not to discriminate against any of their employees or applicants for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, and further that they will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed and that employees are treated during their employment without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin and (ii) to comply with all provisions of Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, the rules, regulations, and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor, and any other applicable laws.

Independent Contractors. The relationship between the Parties to this MOU to each other is that of independent contractors. The relationship of the Parties to this MOU with each other will not be construed to constitute a partnership, joint venture, or any other relationship, other than that of independent contractors.

Notices. All notices, or other written communications relating to termination, expiration, or any other legal matter relating to this MOU will be effective when received and must be given in writing by mail or email to an institution at its official address or email.

If to PSU:

Office of the Vice President for
Commonwealth Campuses
111 Old Main
University Park, PA 16802
OVPCCompliance@psu.edu

With a copy to:
Office of General Counsel
108 Old Main
University Park, PA 16801

If to Community Colleges:

PA Commission for Community Colleges
800 N. Third Street
Suite 405
Harrisburg, PA 17102

[SIGNATURES APPEAR ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES]



1/26/2024

Dr. Jeff Adams

Date

Interim Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Education
The Pennsylvania State University



1/25/2024

Dr. Margo DelliCarpini

Date

Vice President for Commonwealth Campuses, and Executive Chancellor
The Pennsylvania State University



1.25.24

Dr. Matt Melvin

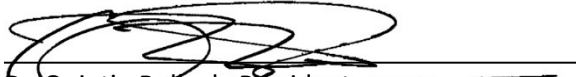
Date

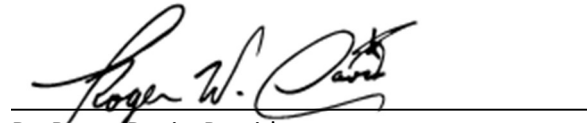
Vice President for Enrollment Management
The Pennsylvania State University

Signature Pages Attached

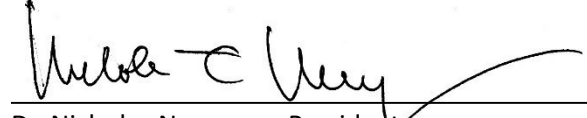
1/12/24

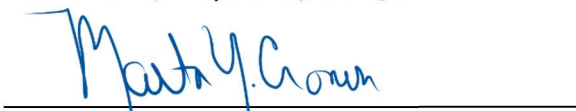
PRESIDENTS OF PENNSYLVANIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES


Dr. Quintin Bullock, President
Community College of Allegheny County


Dr. Roger Davis, President
Community College of Beaver County

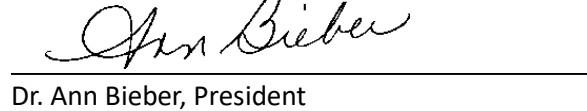

Dr. Kelly Kelleway, Interim President
Bucks County Community College

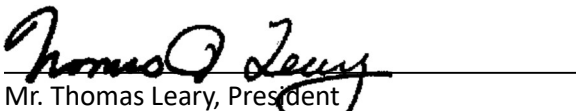

Dr. Nicholas Neupauer, President
Butler County Community College

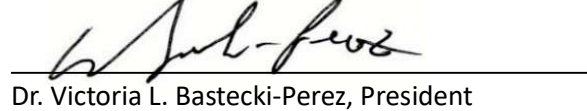

Dr. Marta Yera Cronin, President
Delaware County Community College


Dr. Christopher Gray, President
Erie County Community College of PA



Dr. John J. Sygielski, President
HACC, Central Pennsylvania's Community College

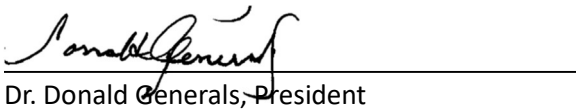

Dr. Ann Bieber, President
Lehigh Carbon Community College

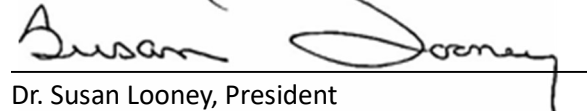

Mr. Thomas Leary, President
Luzerne County Community College

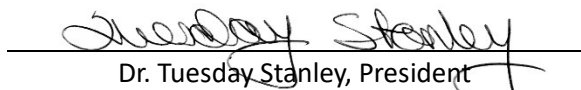

Dr. Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, President
Montgomery County Community College


Dr. David Ruth, President
Northampton Community College

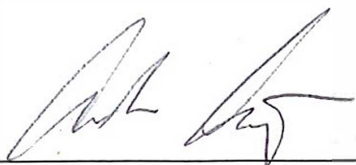

Dr. Steven Nunez, President
Pennsylvania Highlands Community College


Dr. Donald Generals, President
Community College of Philadelphia


Dr. Susan Looney, President
Reading Area Community College


Dr. Tuesday Stanley, President
Westmoreland County Community College

CHANCELLORS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY



Dr. Andrew August, Interim Chancellor
Penn State Abington



Dr. Ron Darbeau, Chancellor
Penn State Altoona



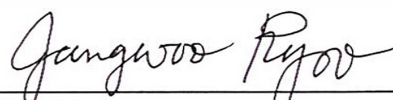
Prof. Carey McDougall, Interim Chancellor
Penn State Beaver



Dr. Radha Pyati, Chancellor
Penn State Berks



Dr. Marilyn Wells, Chancellor
Penn State Brandywine



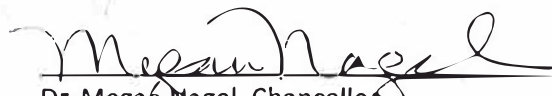
Dr. Jungwoo Ryoo, Chancellor
Penn State DuBois



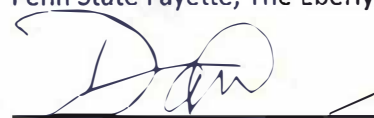
Dr. Ralph Ford, Chancellor
Penn State Erie, The Behrend College



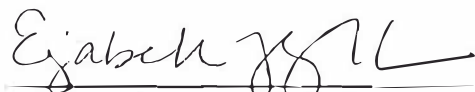
Dr. W. Charles Patrick, Chancellor
Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus



Dr. Megan Nagel, Chancellor
Penn State Greater Allegheny



Dr. David Callejo Pérez, Interim Chancellor
Penn State Harrisburg, The Capital College



Dr. Elizabeth Wright, Chancellor
Penn State Hazleton



Dr. Tina Richardson, Chancellor
Penn State Lehigh Valley




Dr. Francis Achampong, Chancellor
Penn State Mont Alto

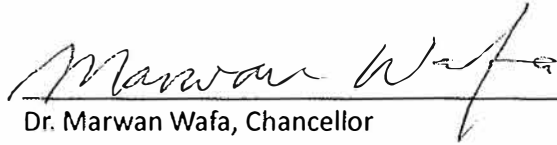


Dr. Kevin Snider, Chancellor
Penn State New Kensington

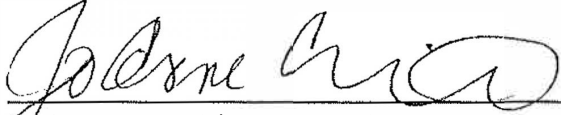
CHANCELLORS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY (continued)



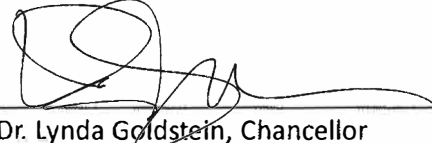
Dr. Patrick Jones, Chancellor
Penn State Schuylkill



Dr. Marwan Wafa, Chancellor
Penn State Scranton



Dr. Jo Anne Carrick, Campus Director
Penn State Shenango



Dr. Lynda Goldstein, Chancellor
Penn State Wilkes-Barre



Dr. David Christiansen, Chancellor
Penn State York