



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

BELLARMINE UNIVERSITY

AND

JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU or agreement) is hereby made and entered into by and between BELLARMINE UNIVERSITY (BU) and JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (JCPS); each a "Party" and collectively, the "Parties"; effective September 2023.

I. PURPOSE OF AGREEMENT

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to develop and expand a multi-faceted partnership between Jefferson County Public Schools and Bellarmine University. Specifically, this MOU outlines a variety of initiatives that are mutually understood to support a high-quality, post-secondary educational experience for respective JCPS affiliates at BU. With shared commitments to (and mission alignment for) increasing educational and developmental opportunities throughout our local community and its workforce, these parties will work together to support JCPS employees in their pursuit of post-secondary completion and/or advancement by enhancing accessibility, affordability, and achievement at BU.

Bellarmino University (Louisville, KY) is an inclusive Catholic university that educates students – mind, body, and spirit – for meaningful lives, rewarding careers, ethical leadership, and service to improve the human condition.

Jefferson County Public Schools (Louisville, KY) is a leading urban school district that provides a high-quality education for 96,000 students in Kentucky. JCPS is committed to growth for each learner through effective teaching and meaningful experiences with caring, supportive environments.

II. PARTNERSHIP OBJECTIVES

Establishment of this partnership will provide:

- JCPS employees the opportunity to excel academically and professionally, and contribute as leaders across the entire school district and in the larger local community (thus enriching all parties involved);

- opportunities for both BU and JCPS leadership and staff to address challenges and obstacles that employees may face related to career advancement through college enrollment;
- structured engagement for related programming, efforts and initiatives that are designed to prioritize workforce training and development opportunities specifically for K-12 employees/educators;
- a collaborative framework to ensure that insufficient financial and/or personal support does not hinder access, admission, or persistence in pursuit of credential completion; financial support opportunities are outlined further in Appendix A (page 4).

III. COMMITMENTS

Joint Duties and Responsibilities

JCPS and BU mutually agree to:

- communicate and distribute current information that promotes partnership program opportunities and details for all eligible JCPS employees interested in pursuing an education at BU;
- share approved media related to the partnership (examples include photos, videos, press, among others) to be used for the purpose of education, awareness and celebration of respective details;
- exchange agreed upon documents that will contribute to partnership maintenance and improvement;
- connect prospective JCPS employees interested in this initiative with the specified contact at BU;
- promote effective cooperation across entities, and assure seamless support for JCPS affiliates;
- meet on a semi-annual basis to discuss partnership program goals, review the status of the program, and propose any necessary amendments or changes to the agreement to be included in the program renewal (at least one staff member from each organization will meet quarterly to discuss the partnership and be available as needed to support students in the program and enrollment pipeline);
- plan and coordinate purposeful events, visits, and programming to support awareness of the partnership program and related opportunities for JCPS affiliates.

IV. TERMS OF AGREEMENT

Implementation, Renewal, Termination, and Amendment

This agreement becomes effective when all signatures are affixed and remains in effect for five (5) years from the date last signed. In no event shall the term of this agreement exceed five (5) years. This agreement may be modified only by a written amendment executed by all parties hereto and approved by the appropriate officials in accordance with applicable Kentucky state laws and regulations. Written notice of intention to terminate, modify, or withdraw from this agreement will be submitted by the signatories (or their designee) of this agreement at least 60 days prior to the proposed date of termination/withdrawal. Either party may terminate this agreement at any time by providing written notice of intent to terminate at least 60 days prior to the effective date of the termination. Should a decision be made to modify or dissolve this agreement, students who are already attending BU at the time will be permitted to continue so long as their academic performance remains in good standing. This agreement may be executed through two or more counterparts, each of which together shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument. In the event that any signature is delivered by facsimile transmission or by e-mail delivery of a

V. SIGNATURES:

Appendix A

BU-JCPS Partnership Financial Opportunities

JCPS-affiliates (employees and board members) are only eligible to take advantage of one BU funding option below, of which the greatest rate shall supersede any/all others received. The following financial opportunities outlined are available for consideration of eligible full-time JCPS staff (including substitute teachers) unless otherwise noted. This is only available for JCPS affiliates not currently enrolled in a BU program.

Discounted tuition rates:

- *Undergraduate* - \$500 per credit hour rate for the Bellarmine degree completion program: Bachelor of Arts in Integrated Studies (with three available track options in communication, organizational leadership, and information technology; will be inclusive of any future tracks added following agreement implementation). *On-Course is a bundling of books and course materials that is also included in the tuition rate for this program, so long as it is offered by/available at BU.
- *Graduate/Second-Degree* - 15% on select doctorate and 20% on masters (eligible programs below)

Programs in Education

- *Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT)*
 - Elementary education
 - Middle school education
 - Secondary education
- *Master of Arts in Education (MAED) & Rank 1 programs*
 - Teacher Leader (Trauma-informed practices cognate, STEAM Education cognate)
 - Literacy Specialist
 - Instructional Leadership and School Administration
 - Rank 1 Curriculum & Instruction
- *Education Specialist (EdS)*
 - Instructional Leadership and School Administration
- *Master of Education (MEd)*
 - Higher Education Leadership & Social Justice
- *Doctoral Degrees*
 - PhD in Education and Social Change
 - PhD in Higher Education Leadership
 - EdD in District Leadership (can lead to Superintendent endorsement)

Other Eligible Non-Education Programs

- *Second Degree:* Software and Data Engineering or Accounting
- *Master:*
 - Communication or Digital Media
 - Business Administration
 - Health Sciences (various options)
- *Doctoral/Post-Master's:* Nursing