 

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

BETWEEN

**BELLARMINE UNIVERSITY**

AND THE

**SPENCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU or agreement) is hereby made and entered into by and between BELLARMINE UNIVERSITY (BU) and the SPENCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT (SC); each a “Party” and collectively, the “Parties”.

1. **PURPOSE OF AGREEMENT**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to develop and expand a multi-faceted partnership between the Spencer County School District 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 SC 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 SC employees in their pursuit of post-secondary completion and/or advancement by enhancing opportunities for accessibility, affordability, and achievement at BU - beginning June 2023.

Bellarmine University (Louisville, KY) is an inclusive Catholic university that educates students – mind, body, and spirt – for meaningful lives, rewarding careers, ethical leadership, and service to improve the human condition. Bellarmine offers a variety of undergraduate and graduate degree programs across many academic disciplines.

Spencer County Schools (Taylorsville, KY) is a school district with a mission to make a difference for all students, as well as their families and the community. Spencer County Schools are committed to challenging and supporting all students to become highly effective individuals, and work collaboratively together to achieve the vision of the district.

1. **PARTNERSHIP OBJECTIVES**

Establishment of this partnership will provide:

* SC employees the opportunity to excel academically and professionally to contribute as leaders across the entire school district and in the larger local community, thus enriching all parties involved;
* opportunities for BU and SC affiliates to address challenges and obstacles that employees may face related to career advancement via post-secondary enrollment;
* a collaborative framework to ensure that insufficient financial, professional, and/or personal support does not hinder access, admission, persistence, or completion for an advanced credential (see. Appendix A on p. 4 for partnership financial support);
* structured engagement for related efforts and initiatives that are designed to prioritize workforce training and development for K-12 employees and educators.

1. **COMMITMENTS**

***Joint Duties and Responsibilities***

SC and BU mutually agree to:

* distribute current communication(s) promoting partnership details and program opportunities for SC employees eligible and interested in pursuing a BU education;
* share approved media related to the partnership program (examples include photos, videos, press, among others) to be used for the purpose of education, awareness and celebration of the relationship in the community;
* exchange data and documents as agreed that will contribute to ongoing maintenance and improvement of this agreement;
* promote effective cooperation between entities and ensure seamless transition with holistic support for SC 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 students in enrollment pipeline);
* plan and coordinate purposeful events, visits, and programming to support awareness of the partnership program and related opportunities for SC affiliates.

1. **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 (May 2023). 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. 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 ".pdf" format data file, such signature shall create a valid and binding obligation of the party executing (or on whose behalf such signature is executed) with the same force and effect as if such facsimile or ".pdf" signature page were an original thereof.

1. **SIGNATURES:**

**Spencer County School District**

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Mr. Charles Abell Date

Superintendent of the Spencer County School District

**Bellarmine University**

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Dr. Michael J. Marshall Date

Vice President for Enrollment, Marketing and Communication

**Appendix A**

**BU-SC Partnership Financial Opportunities**

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| *SC-affiliated employees and executive leadership are only eligible to take advantage of* ***one*** *of the below BU funding options, of which the greatest rate shall supersede any/all others received. The following financial opportunities outlined are available for consideration of eligible full-time SC staff (including substitute teachers) unless otherwise noted. Only applicable for SC affiliates that are not currently enrolled in a BU program.* |
| * Discounted partnership tuition rate for SC affiliates:   + Graduate/Second-degree Programs - 15% on select doctoral programs and 20% on select master's-level programs; some exclusions apply.   + Undergraduate Programs - $500 per credit hour rate for the BU degree completion program: Bachelor of Arts in Integrated Studies (with three tracks in communication, organizational leadership, and information technology; will include any future tracks added following agreement implementation). |