



## Memorandum of Understanding

### Arkansas Rural Nursing Education Consortium

Arkansas State University – Newport  
Black River Technical College  
Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas  
Ozarka College  
South Arkansas Community College  
University of Arkansas Hope/Texarkana  
University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton  
University of Arkansas Rich Mountain

This Memorandum of Understanding constitutes an agreement among the member institutions of the Arkansas Rural Nursing Education Consortium (ARNEC). The purpose of the consortium is to implement, maintain, and evaluate a high quality LPN/LVN to RN transition program offering an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Nursing approved by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing (ASBN) and the Arkansas State Coordinating Board of Higher Education. This Memorandum of Understanding will cover the three-year period from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022 of the LPN/LVN to RN program.

*Objective of Agreement:* The member colleges of the consortium – Arkansas State University – Newport (ASUN), Black River Technical College (BRTC), Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas (CCCUA), Ozarka College, South Arkansas Community College, University of Arkansas Hope/Texarkana (UAHT), University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton (UACCM), and University of Arkansas Rich Mountain (UARM) – have partnered to provide an associate degree nursing program to their students. This Memorandum of Understanding is a continuation of the original agreement that began in January of 2005. The consortium has obtained approval from the ASBN to offer a Registered Nursing program offering accessibility in a non-traditional delivery format to LPNs/LVNs.

*Governance:* Each of the member colleges will have equal representation and an equal voice in the administrative decisions to be made by the consortium. The Chief Executive Officer of each institution shall designate the Chief Academic Officer and/or designee of his/her choosing to represent the institution in matters pertaining to the consortium. This group will serve as the Governing Board of ARNEC.

As curriculum is developed under the guidance of the Program Director, the chairs of the nursing departments of the member institutions and the Program Director will constitute the Curriculum and Program Committees (CPC) for development and recommendation of policies and procedures to assure the quality of the program. Furthermore, the Program Director will assess

and evaluate the program at the end of each graduating class period, and the information distributed to the chairs of the nursing departments of the member institutions. Recommendations of the CPC will be made to the Governing Board by a majority of votes of those present at a regularly scheduled meeting by the Program Director.

*Financial Responsibilities:* Each institution shall be responsible for providing the facilities, distance learning labs, materials and supplies, faculty and staff, and other resources to support the degree program on its individual campus. An annual budget will be preliminarily developed for the consortium by the Program Director. With approval of the Governing Board this will be presented to the Presidents and Chancellors of each member institution, which shall be then approved by the majority. Expenditures incurred for the program shall be based on an equivalent per student cost, proportionate to the number of students enrolled at the member institution.

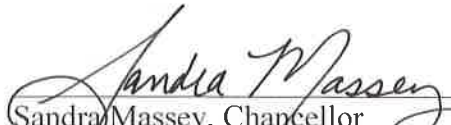
*Instruction and Selection:* The instructional component of the program will be approved by the Governing Board upon the recommendation of the Program Director. Each institution shall assume an equivalent share, based on the number of students enrolled in the member institution, for the expenses incurred by the consortium for the instructional component of the program. Each institution shall be responsible for providing the clinical instructors needed to support the program on the local campus. Classes will be taught using a team approach and facilitated by interactive collaborative learning and online testing.

Each institution shall be allocated a specified number of student spaces in the program, as determined by the Governing Board and approved by the ASBN. Each institution shall abide by the selection policy established by the Governing Board.

*Tuition and Fees:* Each institution shall charge students tuition and fees based on its own institutional tuition and fee structure. Each institution shall also receive credit for the student semester credit hours (SSCH) and full time equivalents (FTE) generated by its students enrolled in the program and award the Associate of Applied Science degree for its students.

*Length of Agreement:* This agreement is entered into by the member institutions and is subject to review by all members of the consortium desiring to continue as a consortium member. The agreement will automatically renew annually within the three-year period in which it is in effect, unless revision is deemed necessary by a majority vote of consortium members. Any institution may withdraw from the consortium with written notification of intent between April 1<sup>st</sup> and July 1<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year to the Program Director, Presidents and Chancellors, and Governing Board representatives of the consortium member institutions. This notification of intent will enable reorganization by the remaining consortium members.


This agreement is entered into on January 1, 2020 and continues through December 31, 2022.

  
Sandra Massey, Chancellor  
Arkansas State University – Newport

12/5/19  
Date

  
Martin Eggenberger, President  
Black River Technical College


12/5/17  
Date

  
Steve Cole, Chancellor  
Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas


12/11/2019  
Date

  
Richard Dawe, President  
Ozarka College


12-5-19  
Date

  
Barbara Jones, President  
South Arkansas Community College

12-12-19  
Date

  
Chris Thomason, Chancellor  
University of Arkansas Hope/Texarkana

12/11/2019  
Date

  
Lisa Willenberg, Chancellor  
University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton

12/5/19  
Date

  
Phillip Wilson, Chancellor  
University of Arkansas Rich Mountain

12-9-19  
Date