

PARTNERSHIP FOR ACCESS TO COLLEGE EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AGREEMENT

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AGREEMENT (hereinafter "Agreement") is entered into on the latest date set forth below (the "Effective Date") by and between La Sierra University, a California nonprofit benefit corporation (hereinafter "La Sierra") and Alvord Unified School District ("District"). La Sierra and District may be referred to individually as "Party" or collectively as "Parties".

RECITALS

- A. La Sierra operates a university in Riverside, California and is committed to educating and training students from throughout the region including communities served by the District.
- B. District operates a school District that prepares students in its community for college entrance and/or work placement; many of which go on to attend La Sierra University.
- C. La Sierra and District each believe that a formal relationship between them will enable each to enhance and expand their service to District's students through creation of a mechanism to increase the number of District students qualifying for admission into La Sierra.
- D. The Parties desire to formalize their commitments to the creation and support of a college preparation program and guaranteed admission program (the "Program") in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth herein.

OPERATIVE PROVISIONS

- 1. DISTRICT COMMITMENT.** Beginning with the 2020-2021 academic year and continuing throughout the term of this Agreement, the District shall provide all incoming 9th grade students with a rigorous academic program of studies and support, which will afford them an opportunity to meet the admission requirements for entrance into La Sierra upon graduation from high school without need for remediation courses. The following benchmarks will be used by the District:

- Continuous enrollment in the Alvord Unified School District for four (4) years;
- Completion of all A-G coursework required by La Sierra admission policies
- Completion of the SAT or ACT exam for applying students; (waived for 2020-2021 graduating class due to Covid)
- Submission of La Sierra application by February 1;
- Submission of unofficial/official transcript by February 1;
- Complete a required interview by February 1 with Dean of Students if answered "Yes" to any Community Standard questions;
- Submission of SAT or ACT test scores by March 1; and (waived for 2020-2021 graduating class due to Covid)
- Final official transcripts, with graduation date by July 1.

The District will support the attainment of these benchmarks with an enhanced academic program including without limitation the following:

- A clear statement of academic expectations to students, staff, parents, and the community for 9th grade and each year thereafter;
- Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) opportunities for high school students, if available at the District;
- Clear criteria for identifying and supporting incoming 9th grade at-risk students;

- A systematic program of parent communication and education;
- Annual reports on the progress of each participating class;
- Frequent notification to students and parents of academic progress;
- On-going teacher, counselor, and parent training regarding La Sierra's admission requirements and their role of facilitating students' application, admission, and enrollment at La Sierra; and
- Facilitation of the development and distribution of supplemental financial aid for participating students.

2. LA SIERRA COMMITMENT. La Sierra will provide a guarantee of admission to La Sierra for graduating District twelfth grade students who:

- Meet the standard admission requirements of La Sierra;
 - o Completion of all A-G coursework or Transcript (9th - 12th) GPA of 3.0 or higher
 - o Attain minimum SAT EBRW and Math combined score of 800 or an ACT composite minimum score of 17(waived for 2020-2021 graduating class due to Covid)
- Submit official ACT/SAT test scores, final transcripts, letter of recommendation, and other required documents by the specified deadlines;
- Complete the online application process as well as read and agree to the expectations given; and

In addition, La Sierra will:

Waive the required application fee for students from Alvord Unified School District effective August 1st, 2020;

Facilitate La Sierra and District faculty dialogue regarding course expectations; Provide materials and information regarding La Sierra's enrollment, attendance, and event data to be distributed by District and other feeder Districts;

Work with District to communicate this guarantee to all students, staff, and community members;

- Share freshman course expectations with District counselors and administrators;
- Provide on-going La Sierra admission and enrollment training for teachers, counselors and parents;
- Assist and support District graduates at La Sierra with structured programs designed to improve retention and completion rates;
- Facilitate financial aid and scholarship workshops for students and parents and distribute financial aid materials;
- Students that are admitted including (citizens, DACA students, and undocumented students), will receive a minimum scholarship in the amount of \$10, 000 per year for 4 years. U.S. citizens are encouraged to fill out the FAFSA application (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). DACA students are encouraged to complete the Dreamers Scholarship;
- Invite District, all families, and communities served by the District to participate in functions, programs, and events put on by the University that enrich and enhance the partnership and collaborative efforts of all parties;

3. REVIEW; AMENDMENT. It is the intent of the Parties that the first cohort of students will be the graduating class of 2021 from Alvord Unified School District. This Agreement shall be reviewed annually and may be amended or extended with the mutual written consent of both Parties

- 4. NO FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS.** Neither party is obligated to expend or commit any financial resources in furtherance of the Guaranteed Admission Program other than those obligations voluntarily assumed by a party.
- 5. RELATIONSHIP OF PARTIES.** This Agreement shall not be construed to create a general partnership, joint venture of any other organizational combination of the parties, nor shall it authorize either party to act as an agent for, or bind the other party in any manner. La Sierra and District shall be and remain independent entities with respect to the performance of their respective duties and obligations hereunder.
- 6. ASSIGNMENT.** This Agreement or any obligations thereunder shall not be subcontracted or assigned except with the prior express written approval of the non-assigned party.
- 7. COUNTERPARTS.** This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which will be deemed original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same agreement. Scanned, photocopied and facsimile signatures shall be deemed original signatures.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement effective as of the Effective Date.

La Sierra University LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY By: _____ Name: <u>Wayne Dunbar, MA</u> Title: <u>Associate Vice President of Enrollment Services</u> Date: _____	DISTRICT ALVORD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT By: _____ Name: <u>Sherri Kemp, Ed.D</u> Title: <u>Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services</u> Date: _____
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