

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS, ACTING FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS, FAYETTEVILLE - DALE BUMPERS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, FOOD & LIFE SCIENCES AND NORTHWEST ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Introduction

Northwest Arkansas Community College (NWACC) and the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas, acting for and on behalf of the University of Arkansas,, Fayetteville (UA) agree to continue to develop mutual programming efforts to extend the opportunities for students of NWACC to complete a four-year degree. With this agreement, UA and the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food & Life Sciences (Bumpers College) agree to accept students who have completed the degree plan from NWACC known as the Associate of Science - Agriculture, Food & Life Sciences, Food and Culinary Science Concentration (AS/AF&LS in Culinary Science), with junior class level standing at the Bumpers College. A copy of the NWACC degree plan is attached and incorporated by reference herein as Exhibit A.

Purpose

In an ever-changing global economy, UA and NWACC recognize the need for a workforce who can compete on a global level. The northwest Arkansas area has many Fortune 500 companies, including major food processors, who need well-qualified students as employees and future leaders. Employment opportunities for students completing degrees with a food science emphasis are anticipated to remain high and this trend is expected to continue. In addition, the State of Arkansas, through Governor Beebe and others, recognizes the need for more Arkansans to complete a baccalaureate degree in order for Arkansas to remain competitive in the global economy. The new degree option offered at NWACC and accepted by the Bumpers College will allow students greater access to baccalaureate degree completion and provide these students with opportunities for personal and professional advancement. It is the mutual goal of both institutions to continue the development of opportunities for students in all academic areas, improve student retention, and increase the levels of degree completion.

Duties and Responsibilities

UA and NWACC hereby agree that both institutions will continue to work toward serving students and providing quality educational opportunities. As such, NWACC will identify students who declare the AS/AF&LS in Culinary Science degree plan to the Bumpers College program advisors and faculty with requisite approval from the student. NWACC will promote the AS/AF&LS in Culinary Science degree plan and allow the

Bumpers College to advise NWACC students on the NWACC campus that are pursuing the degree plan to better insure transition into the Bumpers College. NWACC will provide the use of a private conference room/office in a suitable area for UA representatives to meet with NWACC students. NWACC advisors will require that students who have declared the AS/AF&LS in Culinary Science degree plan to follow the degree plan and complete all prerequisites as outlined. Furthermore, NWACC agrees to offer culinary courses on a regular and uninterrupted basis during the academic year; these specific courses may be used by four-year UA students towards the BS in Food Science (see attached curriculum checksheet), and will allow students in the AS/AF&LS in Culinary Science degree plan to complete the degree in a timely manner.

UA hereby agrees to provide academic advisors on a regular basis to guide and assist NWACC students who have declared the AS/AF&LS in Culinary Science degree option. UA agrees that students who have completed the AS/AF&LS Culinary Science degree plan shall be admitted at junior class level into Bumpers College.

NWACC and Bumpers College will report annually in May, subject to the requirements of FERPA, one to the other, the academic standing and degree progress for each and every student participating in the NWACC AS/AF&LS in Culinary Science degree plan intending to or continuing on to pursue the UA Bachelor of Science in Agricultural, Food & Life Sciences in Food Science with a Food and Culinary Sciences Concentration. If, upon entering the Bumpers College culinary and food science program, a NWACC student has not completed NWACC's requirements for an Associate of Science degree in AF&LS in Culinary Science, with requisite approval from the student, UA will send an official transcript to NWACC for the student to be awarded credit for completion of the NWACC AS/AF&LS in Culinary Science degree when all NWACC course requirements are met. If a NWACC student has not attained the AS degree, UA shall not be required to assign the student Junior level standing pursuant to this MOU.

UA and NWACC also hereby agree that no changes to their respective degree plans, once finalized and approved by all appropriate authorities, will be made at either institution without notification to the other institution for a period of no less than two academic semesters prior to any proposed change to insure a period of notice and discussion.

UA and NWACC will work cooperatively to provide program information, communication, and public relations activities related to this MOU. Both institutions recognize the need to have the appropriate news and publication offices of each campus involved in the process.


UA and NWACC will comply fully with Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating

Board guidelines for program approval by notification of intent and development of the appropriate degree proposals within the timeframe stated herein.


This MOU is subject to all policies of the respective institutions, including but not limited to, all policies of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas and the Board of Trustees of NorthWest Arkansas Community College. This MOU shall be governed by the laws of the State of Arkansas.

This MOU may be terminated by either party on one year's written advance notice. This MOU shall become effective upon the signature of the authorized representatives of both of the parties and shall terminate on June 30, 2015, provided, however that the MOU shall automatically renew for additional four year terms unless one party informs the other in writing that it does not wish to renew at least twelve months prior to the expiration date and provided, further, that 1) either party may terminate the MOU at any time upon twelve months notice and 2) in the event of termination or expiration, any student in the [second] year of the NWACC AS program or higher shall be allowed to complete the UA BS program as provided for therein.

In witness of our continued commitment to serving students and increasing the level of degree completion in Arkansas, we hereby set our hand and seals, this 30 day of March, 2011.



Dr. G. David Gearhart
Chancellor
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville



Dr. Becky Paneitz
President
Northwest Arkansas
Community College