Memorandum of Understanding

PARTNERSHIP NETWORK

Professional Development School (PDS)

Winthrop University and ________________

This memorandum of understanding is entered between the Winthrop University Richard W. Riley College of Education, College of Arts & Sciences, College of Visual & Performing Arts, and _________________ for the 2010-2013 school years.

Vision of the Partnership Network
To create a dynamic and sustained university-school district partnership network that will promote simultaneous renewal of the University and schools with a focus on student learning and educator preparation through the engagement of collaborative learning communities involving district and university students and faculty.

Mission
The mission of the Winthrop University-School Partnership Network is simultaneous renewal and support of P-16 (preschool through college) education, practicing educators, and educator preparation.

Goals
1. Improve P-12 student learning.
2. Improve professional learning for district and university faculty and teacher candidates.
4. Increase the application of research-based practices in classrooms and schools.

University
- Maintain a College and University commitment to a three-year partnership.
- Identify a faculty member to serve as Winthrop Faculty in Residence with 50% reassigned course time dedicated to the school site.
- Provide $1,250* to support implementation objectives outlined in the Annual Evaluation Plan. *Subject to change annually due to modifications in federal funding.
- Provide access to Partnership Network Coordinator to facilitate communication and collaboration.
- Provide access to Professional Learning Coordinator to facilitate professional development.
- Support mini-grant opportunities for school and University faculty to implement and gather data on research-based practices to support instructional improvements.
- Assess needs for and facilitate delivery of professional development.
- Provide access to a Mentoring and Induction Specialist to facilitate mentor training and support.
- Collaborate to determine extent to which the Partnership Network is working and report annually to both university and school stakeholders.

Professional Development School
- Maintain a school-wide commitment to a three-year Professional Development School partnership. This commitment includes at least 2/3 of eligible faculty willing to serve as mentors in the Birth-to-Five model and participate in other PDS and Partnership Network initiatives.
- Educate entire school community on the goals and initiatives of the Partnership
incorporating the vision into the everyday work and mission of the school.

- Ensure Winthrop Faculty in Residence is fully integrated into the school culture (provide office/classroom space, include in faculty meetings, invite to participate in professional development at the district, school, and/or grade levels, etc.).
- Facilitate diverse clinical experiences focusing on students as English language learners, students with special needs in the general education classroom, students living in poverty, and/or students identified as academically gifted.
- Provide an identified School Liaison (teacher or school leader) to help facilitate partnership-related activities, including activities such as serving on the Partnership Advisory Council, assisting with placements and supervision of Winthrop students, and communicating with school and University faculty.
- Participate in action research projects and collaborative professional development, including mentor training and assessment.
- Support, supervise, and assess preservice teachers in clinical experiences throughout the educator preparation program.
- Collaborate to determine extent to which the Partnership Network is working and report annually to both university and school stakeholders.
- Encourage and allow teachers and teacher candidates to implement innovative practice to meet the needs of diverse learners in the school.

Terms of Agreement and Termination

This agreement addresses cooperation in the Winthrop University-School Partnership Network between the undersigned Professional Development School and the Colleges of Education, Arts & Sciences, and Visual & Performing Arts at Winthrop University.

This agreement is in effect for three years (2010-2013) and subject to annual review. Termination of the agreement may be initiated by either party through written notice at least 45 days prior to the end of the school district semester and is subject to completion of the entire semester.

----------------------------------
Professional Development School Principal

__________________________________
                     Date

__________________________________
District Superintendent or Designee

__________________________________
                     Date

__________________________________
Dean, Richard W. Riley College of Education

__________________________________
                     Date

__________________________________
Dean, College of Arts & Sciences

__________________________________
                     Date

__________________________________
Dean, College of Visual & Performing Arts

__________________________________
                     Date

__________________________________
Winthrop University Vice President for Academic Affairs

__________________________________
                     Date