

## **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 Azusa Pacific University, a California nonprofit benefit corporation (hereinafter "APU") and Perris Union High School District ("District"). APU and District may be referred to individually as "Party" or collectively as "Parties."

### **RECITALS**

- A. APU operates a university in Azusa, California and is committed to educating and training students throughout the region including communities served by the District.
- B. District operates a school district that prepares students in its communities for college entrance and/or work placement, many of which go on to attend the APU.
- C. APU 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 APU.
- D. The Parties desire to formalize their commitments to 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.** The District agrees to provide all incoming ninth grade students beginning with the 2019-2020 school year with a rigorous program of studies and support which will provide them with an opportunity to meet the admission requirements for entrance into APU upon graduation from high school without need for remedial courses. Working with APU, the following benchmarks will be used by the District:
  - Continuous enrollment in the Perris Union High School District for four years.
  - Completion of all A-G coursework required by APU admission policies.
  - If not exempt, participation in and successful completion of the Early Assessment Program in their junior year (11th grade) in Mathematics and English or successfully complete additional coursework designed to build the appropriate skills and knowledge as approved by APU.
  - Submission of the SAT Reasoning or ACT Exam for applying students. For students who earn a 3.5 unweighted GPA or higher, a test optional admission alternative may be offered.

- Submission of APU application during the application filing period to be completed by February 15th.
- Submission of final transcripts, letter of recommendation and other required documents by the specified deadlines.
- If admitted, submissions of their confirmation/ deposit form by the deadline May 1st.
- If admitted, attendance at a registration event schedule in June or July followed by new student orientation as scheduled by APU.

The District will support the attainment of these benchmarks with an enhanced program including the following:

- A clear statement of academic expectations to students, staff, parents and the community for ninth grade and each year thereafter.
- Additional approved 12<sup>th</sup> grade English course based on the Expository Reading and Writing course for students who have not received an EAP status of *Standard Exceeded*.
- AVID (advancement via individual determination) opportunities for high school students (if available at the school district).
- Clear criteria for identifying and supporting incoming ninth 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 APU's admissions requirements and their role in facilitating students' application, admission and enrollment at APU.
- Facilitation of the development and distribution of supplemental financial aid for participating students.

2. **APU COMMITMENT.** APU will provide a guarantee of admission to APU for graduating District twelfth grade students who:

- Meet the standard admissions requirements of APU:
- Achieve a minimum cumulative 10-12th grade weighted grade point average of 3.0 or higher.
- Attain minimum SAT score of 990 or an ACT composite of 19.
- 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. APU is an evangelical, Christian community of disciples and scholars who seek to advance the kingdom of God in the

world through academic excellence, service, and discipleship. Students who are admitted must understand what characterizes the Christian community at APU and evidence support for the standards and spirit of the university and exhibit moral character in harmony with its purpose.

In addition, APU will:

- Facilitate APU and District faculty dialogue regarding course expectations.
- Provide materials and information regarding APU'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 APU admission and enrollment training for teachers, counselors and parents.
- Assist and support District graduates at APU with structured programs designed to improve retention and completion rates.
- Waive the application fee for applicants that qualify for the NACAC or College Board fee waiver.
- Facilitate financial aid and scholarship workshops for students and parents and distribute financial aid materials.
- Students that are admitted, who complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), will receive a minimum scholarship of \$10,000 **each year** for four years of undergraduate studies. **REQUIREMENT:** Students must be enrolled full-time (minimum 12 units), maintain a 2.8 GPA, and meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards.

**REVIEW; AMENDMENT.** It is the intent of the Parties that the first cohort of students will be the School graduating class of 2020. The term of this agreement is five (5) years and will terminate on June 30, 2024. Either party may terminate this agreement on thirty (30) days written notice to the other party prior to the end of a school year.

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

**DISTRICT**

**APU**

Perris Union High School District

Azusa Pacific University

By \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Paul W. Ferguson, Ph.D., DABT

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: President, Azusa Pacific University

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_