

**EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN
AMERICAN PUBLIC UNIVERSITY SYSTEM AND
SEWARD COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE/AREA TECHNICAL SCHOOL**

THIS EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP (this "EPA") is made and entered into this May 1st, 2014 by and between Seward County Community College/Area Technical School (SCCC/ATS), and American Public University ("APUS") (individually a "Party" and collectively the "Parties").

DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTIES

American Public University System includes American Public University (APU) and American Military University (AMU) and serves over 100,000 learners worldwide. APUS's relevant curriculum, affordability, and flexibility help students pursue degrees in subjects ranging from homeland security to management and liberal arts. American Public University System is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association. The APUS mission includes expanding access to higher education and preparing graduates for service and leadership in a diverse, global society.

Seward County Community College/Area Technical School (SCCC/ATS) is a public, two-year institution located in Liberal, Kansas. Seward County Community College/Area Technical School is a quality learning-centered institution that believes: A well-educated citizenry is a responsible citizenry; Knowledge is dynamic and evolutionary; Education and learning are lifelong activities; Higher education is an investment in future societies, and the college plays a major role in this endeavor; Every human being is valuable regardless of gender, age, race, creed, cultural background, socioeconomic status, knowledge, or physical and emotional adjustment; Individuals are unique and deserve the opportunity to develop their optimum potential for learning and living; and The college, as an integral community component, responds to the interests and needs of the community.

AGREEMENT

This Education Partnership Agreement is a statement of intent of how APUS and SCCC/ATS are planning on working together to benefit the transfer of SCCC/ATS students to APUS. The EPA recognizes the need to work together, across institutions, to assist SCCC students to achieve their aspirations and potential beyond the associate degree. Historically, there has been a transfer gap between Bachelor and Associate Degree granting institutions. This agreement is based on a practical approach to working together to improve the transfer process between SCCC/ATS and APUS. This agreement will allow each individual academic department the ability to work collaboratively, where appropriate, to align programs to create individual academic discipline articulation agreements.

APUS and SCCC/ATS hereby agree as follows:

1. **American Public University System and SCCC/ATS** will maintain the integrity of their separate programs and enter into this agreement as equal partners.
2. **Advising of SCCC/ATS students** – APUS will designate one or more points of contact to respond to advising questions.
3. **On-Site Outreach** – APUS will arrange with SCCC/ATS to meet and make contact with potential SCCC/ATS transfer students on an annual basis and more frequently if required. SCCC/ATS will provide an appropriate location for presentations and advising.
4. **Communication** – SCCC/ATS and APUS agree to cooperate in communicating with each other and with their common and respective publics concerning the established relationship between the two institutions.
 - a. Any marketing of the EPA will be subject to the prior approval of both parties.
 - b. Each institution will assume responsibility for appropriate marketing to reach their respective student and faculty populations.
 - c. Each institution will designate a marketing point of contact.
 - d. APUS will not market or promote to SCCC/ATS students any lower division courses that SCCC/ATS is scheduled to teach during the period of the EPA.
 - e. Faculty and staff at both institutions will communicate information about this agreement to students and prospective students.
 - f. SCCC/ATS may provide at its website, a link to the APUS website and APUS will provide a link to the SCCC/ATS website.
 - g. Representatives from APUS and SCCC/ATS will meet annually to exchange updated degree requirements, admissions, and transfer information to be used the subsequent academic year. Each institution will notify the other of any contemplated planned changes that would affect the future of this agreement.
5. **Exchange of Student Information** – At no time will Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) regulations or requirements be violated. In particular, the Institutional Research and Assessment Office of APUS will provide annual transfer institutional data to SCCC/ATS.
6. **Concurrent Enrollment** – Students may concurrently take courses at both institutions, as well as have access to advising and other services at both institutions. Students will complete all transfer requirements at SCCC/ATS and APUS will not compete with the college for undergraduate courses.
7. **Financial Aid**- Federal regulations require that students receive financial aid from only a single college from which courses are taken during a given quarter or semester. Advisors should recommend that financial aid recipients take all their courses at either APUS or SCCC/ATS. If a student attends both institutions in a single semester, financial aid may be granted from only one institution.
8. **Undergraduate Book Grant** – APUS promotes student academic success by providing required texts and other reading at no charge to all undergraduate students who are earning academic credit.

9. **Graduate Book Grant** – APUS will extend a graduate studies book grant to full time faculty or staff of SCCC/ATS as part of the EPA.
10. **Transfer Credit Evaluation** – APUS will waive the transfer credit evaluation fee. Students must make the APUS admissions staff aware of the waiver agreement.
11. **Transfer Credit Support** – APUS agrees to provide SCCC/ATS staff and faculty information regarding transfer credit and evaluation (<http://www.apus.edu/transfercredit>). The Transfer Equivalency Database (TED), <http://www.apus.edu/TransferCredit/equivalents/TED/disclaimer.htm> will be updated to include classes at SCCC/ATS and APUS commits to providing staff support to accommodate the data entry. SCCC/ATS will provide APUS with any information regarding program change. The maximum transfer credit award possible toward a bachelor's degree is 91 semester hours.
12. **Length of Agreement** – This agreement will become effective upon the execution of signatures by the responsible authority for each institution and will last for a maximum of three (3) years, after which time both institutions will undertake renegotiations of the agreement.
13. **Termination of Agreement** - Both APUS and SCCC/ATS agree to provide written notice of at least one full academic year in advance of termination.
14. **Articulation Agreement** – This agreement serves as a foundation for the institutions to work collectively on the development of individual discipline related articulation agreements in areas where each institution's academic programs align for student transfer. The articulation agreements will be developed by the institutions' designated academic liaison such as the academics deans, department chairs and or programs directors.

In Witness whereof, the Parties hereto have executed this EPA as of the date first mentioned above by their authorized representatives.

Seward County Community College/Area Technical School

By:



Name: Duane M. Dunn, Ed.D.

Title: President

Date: 5/2/2014

American Public University System

By:



Name: Karan Powell, Ph.D.

Title: Executive Vice President & Provost

Date: 5/15/14