MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

Between

University of Wisconsin System (UW SYSTEM)

and

National Association of System Heads (NASH)

This is an agreement between “Party A”, hereinafter called NASH and “Party B”, hereinafter called UW SYSTEM.

I. PURPOSE & SCOPE

With support from the Lumina Foundation, the work of this project will focus on scaling implementation of High Impact Practices and Equity-Minded Learning Pathways in selected systems within the NASH TS³ Network. Research demonstrates that participating in high-impact educational practices¹ and pursuing degree programs along clear “guided curricular pathways”² can improve success for first-generation students, Hispanic and African American students, and students entering college less academically well prepared. These approaches, however, are not yet fully integrated into “regular” institutional practices especially at larger public institutions and systems. Guided pathways have been implemented at some institutions to increase efficiency of degree attainment, but they have not yet been implemented using other elements of the new learning infrastructure nor have they been designed in ways that replace less effective curricular models within the pathways with these high-impact practices that deploy more active, relevant, and equity-minded pedagogies. This project will help to demonstrate the impact of a coordinated scaled approach to student success and paint a compelling and clear picture of this new, higher quality learning infrastructure.

The partner Systems are as follows:

Tennessee Board of Regents
Montana University System
University System of Georgia

This MOU details the partnership between NASH and UW SYSTEM through December 31, 2019.

² Guided pathways research
II. Funding
Over the course of the two-year project, $150,000 will be provided to UW SYSTEM to support their work. The grant will be paid in two payments. The first payment of $100,000 will be sent by December 31, 2017. The initial budget plan, including guidelines for campus subgrants where appropriate, must be submitted to NASH for approval no later than 30 days after receipt of these funds. The final payment of $50,000 will be sent after NASH receives the report on UW SYSTEM’s first year’s progress. This report is due to NASH no later than September 1, 2018.

UW SYSTEM commits to provide $150,000 in matching support for this project.

III. NASH’s Responsibilities Under this MOU

- Serve as the network designer, becoming the hub for the innovation and provide support to systems to ensure success of the project.
- Facilitate networking among stakeholders in four systems committed to scaling implementation of High Impact Practices and Equity-Minded Learning Pathways.
- Serve as primary point of contact for all systems, and coordinate national scale up.
- Provide technical assistance in development of relevant data collection models.
- Provide access to experienced practitioners in assessment, faculty engagement and HIP implementation.
- Document project at system and campus levels.
- Develop tools to support implementation.
- Only coded data (data without personally identifiable information) of UW SYSTEM’s students will be shared with other research partners. Any reports, conference papers or presentations will only report on coded data. Accordingly, data of UW SYSTEM’s students will be shared only in coded form with other research partners in the network.
- NASH may individually or jointly publish or present on the results this project.

IV. UW SYSTEM’s Responsibilities Under this MOU
While scaled implementation may vary by campus, the system will adopt an overall approach to innovation that will include at least one of the following:

- Identify and advance promising High Impact Practices at both campus and system level by embedding HIPs in required curricula. Agreed-upon strategies will have intentional mechanisms for ensuring access to low income, and under-represented minority students. Selected HIPs will meet the three elements of the definition specified in the RFP.
- Identify and advance promising guided pathways with intentional mechanisms for scaling to majority of campus’ students over time. Agreed-upon strategies will have intentional mechanisms for ensuring access to low income, and under-represented minority students.
UW SYSTEM will also undertake the following activities:

- Assign a project lead for the UW SYSTEM portion of the project to manage project and serve as main point of contact for NASH and campus participants.
- Recruit system staff and teams from 5 campuses to participate in all phases of project activities.
- Provide access to system and campus participants to NASH team and outside evaluator for project work (with appropriate prior notice).
- Participate in NASH team and outside evaluators qualitative and quantitate data collection efforts.
- Develop and implement plan to actively engage faculty across participating campuses.
- Hold a minimum of one face-to-face convening for system staff and campus teams annually.
- Promote attendance at project convenings and TS³ Network Meetings for system staff and campus teams.
- Share all tools developed from this project with entire Network.
- UW SYSTEM may individually or jointly publish or present on the results from their contribution to this project.

Learning Assessment:

- Incorporate at least one assessment tool, such as the Degree Qualifications Profile, Beta Credentials Framework, industry frameworks for specific programs, VALUE rubric, CLA, competency-based frameworks or comprehensive student record.

Data Collection:

- Develop new approaches to data collection for HIPs and guided pathways to be shared among Network.
- Develop institutional and system processes for tracking comparable and disaggregated data.
- Share all original (un-coded and unedited) data collected from this project with NASH team and external evaluator.

V. IT IS MUTUALLY UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES THAT:

This MOU may be modified only with the mutual, written consent of both parties.

Each member may bring prior intellectual property to this work and that intellectual property remains the sole property of that organization or individual.

The intellectual property developed as a result of this contract will belong jointly to all parties as co-owners. Products jointly created under this agreement will be licensed under a creative commons for non-commercial use license (either Attribution-
NonCommercial-ShareAlike or Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs) except in extraordinary circumstances where all relevant parties agree to alternative arrangements.

VI. EFFECTIVE DATE AND SIGNATURE

This MOU shall be in effect upon the signature of Party A’s and Party B’s authorized officials. It shall be in force from the last date of signature below to December 31, 2019. Parties A and B indicate agreement with this MOU by their signatures.

Rebecca Martin  
Executive Director, NASH  
11/28/2017  
Date

James P. Henderson  
Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs,  
University of Wisconsin System Administration  
11/29/17  
Date