

**Sandhills Regional Education Consortium:  
Sandhills Leadership Academy  
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

WHEREAS, **Sandhills Regional Education Consortium (SREC: SLA)**, \_\_\_\_\_ School System, the other nine (9) school systems comprising the SREC, Fayetteville State University (FSU), University of North Carolina at Pembroke (UNC-P), and North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT) have come together to collaborate and to make an application for **Race to the Top/ Z. Smith Reynolds Alternative Licensure for School Principals Grant (SREC: SLA)**; and

WHEREAS, the school systems and partners listed below have agreed to enter into a collaborative agreement in which the SREC will be the lead agency and named applicant and the other agencies will be partners in this application; and

WHEREAS, the school systems and partners herein desire to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) setting forth the participation, services, support, and involvement to be provided by their collaborative roles and functions; and

WHEREAS, the application prepared and received approval of the grant proposal by the collaborative votes of the SREC Superintendents' Council on October 14, 2010 and approval of the proposed grant by the North Carolina State Board of Education on December 2, 2010;

***D) Description of Partner School Systems, Institutions of Higher Education and Agency***

A. Sandhills Regional Education Consortium (SREC) – The SREC is a consortium of eleven (11) school systems (Anson County, Cumberland County, Ft. Bragg Schools, Harnett County, Hoke County, Lee County, Montgomery County, Moore County, Richmond County, Public Schools of Robeson County, and Scotland County) geographically located in the Sandhills Region of North Carolina. The SREC provides professional development training for teachers and administrators, coordinates leadership meetings for identified groups, assist with collaborative efforts between the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, regional institutions of higher education, and/or various other professional organizations, and submits proposals for grants on behalf of the eleven (11) school systems.



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B. All of the school systems are pre-k through 12 grade public school systems except Ft. Bragg which is a K through 9 Department of Defense school system. The Ft. Bragg System will not be participant in this grant.

C. Fayetteville State University is a public comprehensive regional university, offering degrees at the baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral levels; and is located in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Committed to excellence in teaching, research, and service to the community, the university seeks to prepare its students and graduates to lead meaningful and productive lives. Preparing future educators at the undergraduate and graduate levels continues to be a primary focus of Fayetteville State University.

D. The University of North Carolina at Pembroke is a comprehensive university and one of 17 constituent institutions that comprise The University of North Carolina system. UNC Pembroke has had a long tradition of providing outstanding teachers and school executives for the region and state at both the undergraduate and master's levels. UNCP is committed to excellence in a balanced approach to teaching, research/scholarly activity, and public service and is located in the community of Pembroke, North Carolina.

E. The North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching is a recognized national leader in professional development programming for teachers. Established by the North Carolina state legislature in 1985, NCCAT provides a year-round curriculum of intensive cross-disciplinary seminars in the sciences, arts, humanities, technology, leadership, communication, and health and wellness. NCCAT is a place where teachers "advance teaching as an art and a profession" through a wide range of experiential study and learning opportunities. In addition, NCCAT has established the Principal Scholars Initiative to help principals gain greater skills in instructional leadership. NCCAT has two locations: Cullowhee and Ocracoke, N.C.

## ***II) History of Relationship***

The school systems within the Sandhills Regional Education Consortium have worked together for over ten (10) years in a collaborative effort to improve the teaching and leadership capabilities of the educators within the region. During this time, there has been an ongoing effort between the school systems and the regional institutions of higher education to collaborate on the needs of education. The superintendents and the Deans of Education meet jointly on a regular basis to address the various identified needs. In addition, regional educators sever on a variety of advisory committees and boards associated with both FSU and UNC-P.



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***II) History of Relationship (continued)***

Also, the school systems have encouraged and supported teachers from across the region to attend NCCAT seminars addressing many of the ongoing instructional needs in their classrooms. NCCAT has provided outstanding professional development for the teachers of the SREC during the last twenty-five (25) years.

As a result of these strong historical relationships, all partners participated in the development of the SREC: SLA grant proposal and all will be active participants in the implementation as outlined in the grant proposal except for Ft. Bragg schools.

***III) Roles and Responsibilities***

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby agreed by and between the school systems and partners as follows:

- 1) The SREC Superintendents' Council comprised of the superintendents, the Deans of Education from the universities, and the Executive Director of the SREC will be the governing body to accept and monitor the grant. The Sandhills Leadership Advisory Committee for the SREC: SLA comprised of one representative from the school systems, partners, Executive Director of the SREC, and the Supervisor of the SREC: SLA will work collaboratively to develop and monitor the development of curriculum, select executive interns, provide ongoing evaluation of staff and programs.
- 2) The superintendent of each SREC member school system will identify and recommend three (3) to four (4) prospective participants for participation as Executive Interns for the school years 2011-2012, 2012-2013, and 2013-2014. There will be twenty (20) Executive Interns selected from across the region to participate in the twelve (12) month SREC: SLA per year of the grant. The Executive Interns will remain the employees of the school system and their salaries and benefits will be paid by the SREC: SLA grant received from the NC State Board of Education.
- 3) The partners (FSU, UNC-P, and NCCAT) will assist with the program development, implementation, and evaluation as indicated in the SREC: SLA grant proposal.
- 4) All school systems and partners will participate in the implementation and evaluation of the SREC: SLA from 2011-2014 unless there is a mutual agreement to not participate.

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***IV) Timeline***

The roles and responsibilities described above are contingent on **SREC** receiving funds requested and approved by the North Carolina State Board of Education on December 2, 2010 for the project described in the SREC: SLA grant application. Responsibilities under this Memorandum of Understanding would coincide with the grant period, anticipated to be **February 1, 2011** through **August 15, 2014**.

***VI) Commitment to Partnership***

- 1) The collaboration service area includes the Sandhills Region of North Carolina comprised of Anson County Schools, Cumberland County Schools, Harnett County Schools, Hoke County Schools, Lee County Schools, Montgomery County Schools, Moore County Schools, Richmond County Schools, Public Schools of Robeson County, and Scotland County Schools.
- 2) The partners agree to collaborate and provide assistance with the curriculum development, program evaluation, and space for appropriate meetings and activities associated with the implementation of grant as outlined in the grant proposal.
- 3) We, the undersigned have approved this MOU at an official meeting of

**Sandhills Regional Education Consortium**

By \_\_\_\_\_  
James R. Simeon  
Executive Director  
Sandhills Regional Education  
Consortium

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Johnny Hunt, Chair  
Sandhills Regional Education  
Consortium – Superintendents  
Council

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**School Systems**

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Greg Firn  
Superintendent  
Anson County Schools

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa G. Davis  
Chair  
Board of Education  
Anson County Schools

Date \_\_\_\_\_



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By \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Frank Till  
Superintendent  
Cumberland County Schools

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Phil R. Ferrell  
Superintendent  
Harnett County Schools

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Freddie Williamson  
Superintendent  
Hoke County Schools

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Jeff Moss  
Superintendent  
Lee County Schools

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Dale Ellis  
Superintendent  
Montgomery County Schools

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Carrie Sutton  
Chair  
Board of Education  
Cumberland County Schools

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Billy B. Tart  
Chair  
Board of Education  
Harnett County Schools

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Hank Richards  
Chair  
Board of Education  
Hoke County Schools

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Shawn E. Williams  
Chair  
Board of Education  
Lee County Schools

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Steven W. DeBerry  
Chair  
Board of Education  
Montgomery County Schools

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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By \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Susan Purser  
Superintendent  
Moore County Schools

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. George Norris  
Superintendent  
Richmond County Schools

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Johnny Hunt  
Superintendent  
Public Schools of Robeson County

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Rick Stout  
Superintendent  
Scotland County Schools

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Dale Frye  
Chair  
Board of Education  
Moore County Schools

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair  
Board of Education  
Richmond County Schools

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Loistine P. DeFreece  
Chair  
Board of Education  
Public Schools of Robeson County

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Jimmy Bennett  
Chair  
Board of Education  
Scotland County Schools

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Partners**

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Leontye Lewis  
Dean  
School of Education  
Fayetteville State University

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Leah Fiorentino  
Dean  
School of Education  
The University of North Carolina at Pembroke

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Mary D. McDuffie  
Executive Director  
The North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching

Date \_\_\_\_\_