

HAGERSTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY

COLLABORATION AGREEMENT

Purpose

The purpose of this comprehensive collaboration agreement between Hagerstown Community College and Shepherd University is to create a "seamless web" of joint programs and services for students who choose to attend both institutions. The agreement builds on the belief shared by both institutions that a well-educated populace greatly serves the region. Consequently, it is in the best interests of the service communities to have the institutions minimize barriers and maximize student access and transfer to increase the number of associate and bachelor level programs that are well articulated and the number of students who pursue these opportunities. The specific objectives of the collaborative are to (1) better inform students of their many options as they consider attending both institutions, (2) enhance the process by which students are admitted into and transfer between the two institutions, (3) achieve increased effectiveness and student service by considering joint programs and services offered at both institutions that benefit the shared student body, (4) propose and review special employee development initiatives that mutually benefit both institutions, and (5) undertake shared leadership initiatives to better serve the economic and other community development needs of the broader region and the two states of Maryland and West Virginia.

Background

As Shepherd University and Hagerstown Community College consider a significant new partnership, the institutions build on a long-standing and fruitful foundation of cooperation. Since HCC was established in 1946, Shepherd and HCC have enjoyed a very positive relationship and a shared student body. It is estimated that over 1,000 persons hold degrees from both institutions. As the new century unfolds, however, there is a mutual desire to make this historically good relationship even better. This new sense of urgency is directed at strengthening and expanding the educational partnership that continues to serve large numbers of students. Regional economic and cultural development is nurtured through the work of both institutions, and the rising quality of life in the region will depend in large part on an educated and highly qualified work force. The "new century" higher education model calls for greater collaboration between institutions, as well as improved programmatic and service articulations that make the student flow from one institution to the other smooth and productive. As the two institutions work together, each will continue to play its distinctive role. However, much of the creativity and improvement in educational offerings and services for the common student body will occur where the work of both institutions is designed to merge and blend in a quality manner.

Process

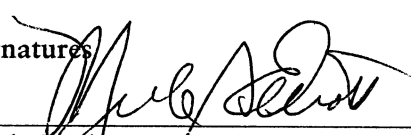
Administrative and faculty leaders from Hagerstown Community College and Shepherd University, with the endorsement and guidance from their respective presidents, will meet and confer to improve curricular and student service articulations to benefit the students who choose to attend both institutions. Once per year, the presidents will endorse a projects list created by the chief academic and student services officers and faculty of both institutions. In addition, as matters of joint collaboration are completed, written agreements will be prepared, signed, and included in the public information releases of both institutions, including hard copy publications and electronic media. All new information being released will be shared in advance between the public information offices of the two institutions.

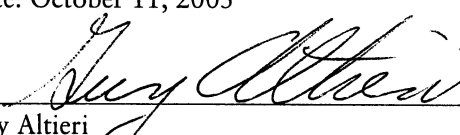
Areas for Current and Future Collaboration

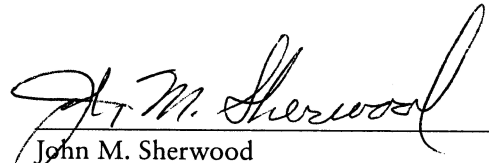
Areas for enhancement of present and/or potential collaborative activities and initiatives include, but are not limited to the following:

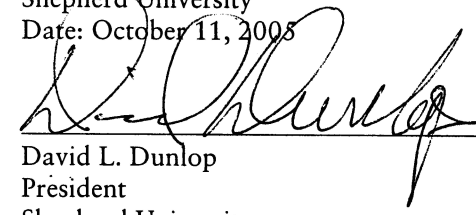
1. Improved curriculum articulation, including 2-plus-2 models
2. Joint faculty professional development, as may be feasible
3. Dual admissions into various programs
4. Tuition waivers for students transferring to Shepherd from HCC
5. Joint offering of courses, as may be feasible
6. Joint program development in areas such as Health Care Administration, Engineering Technology, Education, and Criminal Justice
7. Joint cultural and student recreational development activities
8. Joint press releases and mention of the collaboration agreement in appropriate College and University documents and publications
9. Explore opportunities for Shepherd graduate student internships on the HCC campus
10. Annual review and update of agreements

Signatures


Merle S. Elliott
Board of Trustees, Chair
Hagerstown Community College
Date: October 11, 2005


Guy Altieri
President
Hagerstown Community College
Date: October 11, 2005


John M. Sherwood
Board of Governors, Chair
Shepherd University
Date: October 11, 2005


David L. Dunlop
President
Shepherd University
Date: October 11, 2005