

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT - Renewal

This Partnership Agreement ("Agreement") is effective as of the date of the last party to sign below and is between the **Board of Trustees of Southern Illinois University**, a body politic and corporate of the State of Illinois, governing Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, including its School of Nursing, ("SIUE") and **Illinois Eastern Community College** ("IECC"), a community college organized and existing under the laws of the State of Illinois.

WHEREAS, SIUE and IECC share a common pride and a history of serving the Southern Illinois region with high quality educational programs and offering curricula that combine various disciplines in arts and sciences with programs that prepare students for careers in various fields; and

WHEREAS, SIUE and IECC desire to enter into this Agreement to establish a Pathway RN/BS Program to increase opportunities for student access to and success in a Nursing education by mutually agreeing to clarify transfer policies and procedures that assure articulation between programs and to assist students in making a seamless transfer of IECC course work to SIUE for the completion of the baccalaureate degree in Nursing;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and promises contained herein, the parties agree as follows:

- I. **Purpose** - The purpose of this Associate degree to Bachelor's degree Pathway Program is for IECC students to be able to obtain a Bachelor's degree in Nursing at SIUE after attending Illinois Eastern Community College. IECC students will complete an Associate degree and the majority of the general education requirements in preparation for attending the RN/BS Program at SIUE School of Nursing. Upon completion of the requirements of both institutions, a student will qualify for an Associate in Applied Science degree from IECC, and then a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from SIUE. Sample curricula outlining how a typical student would be able to satisfy the requirements is attached to this Agreement. The two institutions agree to inform each other of any future curriculum changes so that the basic Agreement remains in force as curriculum changes occur at either school.

II. Policies and Procedures for Operation of Pathway RN/BS Program

A. Student Admissions Eligibility

1. A student is required to submit a Pathways Application for Admission to SIUE. This application is submitted after the student is enrolled in the Associate Degree in Nursing track at IECC. Although a student will be admitted to SIUE upon receipt of the application, the student will not matriculate to SIUE until minimum admission standards have been achieved and all prerequisite coursework is completed. This should be accomplished through the successful completion of the outlined curriculum included in this Agreement.
2. The SIUE program curriculum will remain unchanged from a student's point of admission throughout continuous enrollment and timely completion of degree requirements. A student failing to complete

requirements within the timeline established by SIUE policy may be subject to new and/or revised requirements.

3. Prior to the student's anticipated entry term, SIUE will review the student's academic progress to ensure that admission requirements to the University have been satisfied. Students meeting requirements will be eligible to enroll at that time.
4. A student who is satisfactorily completing the first two semesters of the curriculum at IECC as outlined in the BS in Nursing Partnership progression plan and has completed required prerequisite coursework, will be admitted directly to the SIUE RN/BS program and may enroll in NURS 240R and NURS 335R during their third and fourth semester, prior to obtaining RN licensure. Once a student has successfully completed the ADN program at IECC and licensure as a registered nurse is obtained, a student may progress through the remaining RN/BS nursing courses (NURS 472R, 475R, 484R, and 480R). Upon enrollment in NURS 475R, SIUE will award 40 or 43 proficiency credits for nursing course work completed in the associate degree within the nursing program at IECC.

C. Academic Standing & Retention

Once admitted to SIUE, students will be subjected to standard retention requirements applied to all SIUE students. Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 to remain in good academic standing. Upon matriculation to SIUE, students must adhere to the SIUE and individual RN/BS program of study retention standards.

D. Transfer of Coursework

Upon receipt of official transcripts from IECC, SIUE will record all transfer credit to the student's record as articulated.

III. SIUE Responsibilities

- A. Designate a contact person to handle all communication with IECC that relates to the administration of the Pathway RN/BS Program.
- B. Each semester will provide IECC with a list of IECC students enrolled in the Pathway RN/BS Program.
- C. Inform IECC of any current and planned changes to the curriculum that may impact the operation of the Pathway RN/BS Program.
- D. Consult with, and obtain approval of, the IECC Vice President of Marketing and Communications prior to using IECC name and/or logo in any recruitment materials for the Pathway RN/BS Program.

IV. Illinois Eastern Community College Responsibilities

- A. Designate a contact person to handle all communication with SIUE that relates to the administration of the Pathway RN/BS Program.

- B. At the completion of each semester of the IECC curricula, provide SIUE's Office of the Registrar with official transcripts of IECC students enrolled in the Pathway RN/BS Program. The transcripts are to be forwarded to Box 1080, Edwardsville, IL 62026-1080.
- C. Inform SIUE of any current and planned changes to the curriculum that may impact the operation of the Pathway RN/BS Program.
- D. Consult with, and obtain the approval of the SIUE Office of Marketing and Communications prior to using the SIUE name and/or logo in any recruitment materials for the Pathway RN/BS Program.
- V. **Term** - The term of this Agreement shall begin on August 1, 2020 to July 31, 2025. Thereafter, this Agreement shall automatically renew for successive twelve (12) month periods unless terminated by either party with or without cause, with 120 days prior written notice to the other party. Termination, however, will not be effective without a negotiated phase-down agreement for students currently enrolled.
- VI. **Relationship of the Parties** - The parties agree that they are independent contractors, and that nothing contained in this Agreement is to be construed as making the parties partners or joint venturers. For purposes of the subject matter of this Agreement, the employees, officers and agents of one party shall not be employees, officers, or agents of the other party and may not hold themselves as such nor may they make any representations or commitments on behalf of the other party. Both parties, however, through their employees, officers, and agents, may represent such matters and understandings as are contained in this Agreement.
- VII. **Notices** - All notices pursuant to this Agreement shall be made in writing and will be deposited in the United States mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the following designated representatives for each party or emails sent via institutional email servers. Each entity may designate a new representative for the purpose of this Agreement by providing notice to the other.

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Roberta Harrison
 Associate Dean, Academic Programs
 Alumni Hall 2110
 Campus Box 1066
 Edwardsville, IL 62026-1066
 618-650-3927
roberha@siue.edu

Illinois Eastern Community College

Theresa Marcotte
 305 N. West Street
 Olney, IL 62450
 618-395-777 x2136
marcottet@iecc.edu

With a copy to:
 Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
 Attn: Associate General Counsel
 Campus Box 1019
 Edwardsville, IL 62026
contracts@siue.edu

VIII. Mutual Understandings

A. Compliance – Performance pursuant to this Agreement shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, regulations, ordinances, and orders. Further, each party shall be governed by the applicable and mandatory policies, procedures, and regulations established by their governing bodies, any accrediting bodies, and any other agency with oversight obligations in the implementation and interpretation of this Agreement.

B. Non-Discrimination - The parties agree that neither party shall, in the performance of this Agreement, discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, creed, marital status, national origin, physical or mental disability unrelated to ability, or unfavorable discharge from military service not including dishonorable discharge.

C. Program Promotion - Each party shall advertise the program that is the subject of this Agreement so that it is disseminated to prospective and existing students by reasonable means, which may include, but is not limited to, the Internet, student catalogs, view books, program brochures, and other advertising. Advertising copy for the Pathway RN/BS Program shall be reviewed and approved in writing by each party prior to publication. Each party shall have a royalty-free, non-transferrable, limited, non-exclusive right to use the name, trademarks, and logos of the other party solely in the advertising for the Pathway RN/BS Program during the term of this Agreement. Upon expiration or termination of this Agreement, the parties shall cease and desist from using the other party's name, trademarks or logos in any manner.

D. Cooperation - Each party shall encourage and maintain a high degree of cooperation between their support staffs in the operation of this Agreement.

E. Waiver - Waiver by either party of any term or provision of this Agreement shall not constitute a waiver of any other terms or provisions. To be effective, any waiver, change, discharge or termination of any provision of this Agreement shall be in writing signed by both parties.

F. Confidentiality of Student Education Records – Each party shall comply fully with all provisions of the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) in performance of obligations pursuant to this Agreement. Subject to FERPA, the parties shall share student records to the extent necessary to operate the Pathway RN/BS Program and shall protect such records from unauthorized disclosure.

G. Applicable Law - Questions of validity, execution, construction, and interpretation which may arise hereunder shall be governed by the laws of the state of Illinois without reference to conflict of law principles.

H. Severability - If any clause or provision of this Agreement, or the application of any clause to a particular context or to a particular situation, circumstance or person, should be held unenforceable, invalid or in violation of law by any court, the validity and enforceability of the enforceable portion of any such provision and/or the remaining provisions shall not be affected thereby.

I. Amendments - This Agreement may be amended only by written addendum signed by both parties.

J. Entire Agreement - This Agreement and its attachments constitute the entire agreement between the parties pertaining to the Pathway RN/BS Program and supersedes all prior written or verbal agreements between the parties.

K. Counterparts – This Agreement may be signed in counterparts, each and every one of which shall be deemed an original, notwithstanding variations in format or file designations, which may result from the electronic transmission, storage and printing of copies of this Agreement from separate computers or printers. Facsimile and electronic signatures shall be treated as original signatures.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each party is signing this Agreement on the date stated below that party's signature.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**

By: Laura Bernaix
Laura Bernaix, Dean, School of Nursing
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Date: 9-28-2020

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
ILLINOIS EASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

By: Theresa Marcotte
Theresa Marcotte, Associate Dean of Nursing
and Allied Health
Illinois Eastern Community College

Date: 9/3/20

By: Rodney Ranes
Rodney Ranes, President
Illinois Eastern Community College

By: Dr. G. Andrew Fischer
Dr. G. Andrew Fischer, Chairman
IECC Board of Trustees
Illinois Eastern Community College

EXTENSION OF TIME W NO CHANGES 9/15/20



Pathway Program ADN to BS

Additional Information:

Once a student entering the RN/BS program provides evidence of a current unencumbered RN license, the School of Nursing will complete an overall assessment of the student's work experience and the previously completed community college and university nursing coursework. The School of Nursing may then grant up to 40 or 43 proficiency credits to provide the student with advanced standing in the nursing program. These credits differ from the transfer of courses. If the student's college/university credits are greater than 5 years old, the candidate will need to submit a portfolio to demonstrate proficiency in the areas in which credit is sought along with evidence of a current unencumbered RN license.