

Memorandum of Understanding

**Between
School Board of Lee County
and
Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is hereby entered into this 29th day of August, 2018 (Effective Date) by and between Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees, a public body corporate of the State of Florida, and the School Board of Lee County, the governing body of The School District of Lee County (collectively "the Parties").

RECITALS

As the nation's Pre-K-12 education system strives to transform in response to the continuous evolution of technological innovations of the 21st century, Florida Gulf Coast University's (FGCU) College of Education (COE) and The School District of Lee County (SDLC) share a collective understanding of the need to create a contemporary model lab school to develop, demonstrate and cultivate new and different ways of learning. Through learner-centered *Experiential, Exploratory, and Expeditionary (Triple E)* learning experiences, children and youth must have opportunities to become confident individuals, creative innovators, socially responsive problem-solvers, ethical entrepreneurs, and insightful leaders to thrive in an increasingly technological and innovative world. Triple E will be a unique framework that will inform and lead our continuous direction of the 21st Century learning and teaching. It is the intent of the Parties that this particular model will have the capacity to be replicated in other educational settings.

FGCU COE and SDLC jointly seek to develop a Pre-K-12 Lab School (Lab School) model to serve students in a small school environment for the 21st century innovative experiential learning. In addition, the Parties envision the Lab School will serve as the prime Professional Development School (PDS) for the region to support in-service and pre-service teachers, school principals, teacher education faculty, and district-level leaders for continuous improvement in their research-based practice.

The joint lab school concept between FGCU COE and SDLC is designed to develop innovative leaders of the highest moral and ethical character, with the vision, skills, and compassion to lead people and organizations and to improve the quality of life in our community, the state, the nation, and beyond. The Lab School will develop diverse leaders and role models for the future. Because the future of Southwest Florida depends on visionary, creative, and innovative leaders

with the capability to solve complex problems, the Lab School is necessary for strategic, economic and workforce development. Graduates of the Lab School will emerge with a greater sense of STE[A]M (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Math) literacy, critical, innovative and creative thinking, socially responsive entrepreneurial instincts, caring for others, and a unique understanding of both the importance of civic engagement and the positive impact it has on improving the quality of life for all.

The Parties envision a longitudinal study of the research-based practices to demonstrate the impact of the Triple E model on the academic, emotional and social outcomes leading to the production of learners and leaders who are equipped with knowledge, skills and leadership traits prepared to meet the demands of the 21st Century workforce in the region and beyond.

The Parties intend for the joint Lab School to:

- Enhance research-based PreK-12 student learning and achievement;
- Cultivate and nurture development of relationships with students and families;
- Support and enhance professional learning on Generation Z learner and how they learn and interact with others;
- Expand research-based professional learning for district personnel, university faculty, teacher candidates, and community members;
- Improve quality of teacher and educational leadership preparation;
- Increase the application of new and innovative research-based practices in classrooms and schools;
- Produce greatly needed contemporary, futuristic, and confident workforce; and
- Increase visibility of the Southwest Florida region for prosperous and unique economic development.

WHEREAS, FGCU COE, seeks to collaborate with SDLC to establish the PreK-12 Lab School for Experiential, Exploratory, and Expeditionary (Triple E) learning as part of the innovative educational portfolio under the umbrella of the College's vision and mission; and

WHEREAS, SDLC, shall collaborate with FGCU COE to create the Lab School as part of the school district's strategic initiatives for serving the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the premises and the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained, the parties hereto agree as follows:

I. PURPOSE

This MOU provides the terms under which FGCU COE and SDLC will cooperatively contribute to the creation of the joint Lab School.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

A. Joint & Collaborative Responsibilities

1. FGCU COE and SDLC shall collaborate to develop a full proposal of the Lab School that focuses on learner-centered *Experiential, Exploratory, and Expeditionary (Triple E)* learning experiences.
2. FGCU COE shall support and SDLC shall work to secure funds from the State for the Lab School building and related financial needs.
3. FGCU COE and SDLC shall cultivate a culture of community-based collaboration including business and industry partners for transformative PreK-12 education in the region.
4. FGCU COE shall support and SDLC shall explore and identify a strategic location of the Lab School to serve the school district's diverse and inclusive population.
5. FGCU COE shall be consulted and SDLC shall develop the architectural design of the Lab School that supports learner-centered *Triple E* learning experiences that include technologically innovative, open and integrated spaces.
6. FGCU COE and SDLC shall form a joint advisory board for the Lab School of which the membership and responsibility of the board members shall be defined and be included in the Lab School full proposal.
7. FGCU COE and SDLC shall establish a joint organizational structure that supports shared leadership and administration of the Lab School.
8. FGCU COE and SDLC shall collaborate to identify University faculty and District school staff, and administrators who can facilitate the development and implementation of the Lab School, and provide mentoring, training, and support for those who participate in the development and implementation.
9. FGCU COE and SDLC shall collaborate in hiring and supervision of teachers, administrative and support staff for the Lab School.
10. FGCU COE and SDLC shall jointly request the flexibility currently afforded to other forms of public schools in the state.
11. FGCU COE shall support and SDLC shall build a formal performance evaluation system supported by Florida's Legislature and Florida Department of Education (FDOE) for the Lab School principals and teachers in light of the school's vision and mission.
12. FGCU COE and SDLC shall jointly articulate and support establishing model Residency Programs for Pre-service Teachers, In-service Teachers, Current Principals, Aspiring School Leader, and COE Faculty to strengthen field-based and field-integrated practices in light of PDS-based Lab School:
 - Faculty Residency Program in the Lab School.
 - Teacher Residency Program in the College.
 - Pre-service Teacher Residency Program in the Lab School.
 - Aspiring School Leader Residency Program in the Lab School.
 - Current Principal Residency Program in the Lab School.
 - School Leadership Residency Program in the College.

13. FGCU COE and SDLC shall promote and support innovative research activities and research-based teaching and learning practices among teachers, COE faculty, students, interns, and school administrators in the Lab School under its vision and mission.
14. FGCU COE and SDLC shall develop a full document that outlines the responsibilities of areas such as:
 - a. Curriculum
 - b. Finance
 - c. Food Service
 - d. Human Resource
 - e. Instructional Technology
 - f. Operations
 - g. Professional Development
 - h. Research and Service Centers (e.g., Center for Educational Innovation and Development)

B. FGCU COE Responsibilities

1. FGCU COE shall provide expertise in curriculum, teaching and learning, and research assessment to the Lab School (e.g., instruction vs. critical pedagogy, inclusion, ESOL, STE[A]M literacy, innovation and creativity in learning, formative assessment, educational technology, classroom management, educational entrepreneurship, educational leadership, brain-based learning, expeditionary learning, mental health literacy for teachers, data-based assessment, individualized differentiated instruction, standard-based teaching, project-based learning, inquiry-based learning, etc.)
2. FGCU COE shall work to provide a full scope of year-round professional development program for pre- and in-service teachers, administrators, and other school district personnel. The professional development program shall work to be recognized as graduate credits awarded towards a FGCU COE advanced degree program.
3. FGCU COE shall support research and service grant opportunities for the Lab School to implement best practices.
4. FGCU COE shall support data-informed and research-based practices for new and innovative ways of teaching and learning, as well as instructional improvements.
5. FGCU COE shall support development of innovative and high-quality teachers and school administrators as part of the Lab School's vision and mission.
6. FGCU COE shall work to facilitate full infusion of *NPDS 9 Essentials* Policy Statement (April 2008) into the Lab School as an exemplary Professional Development School ("PDS") site.
7. FGCU COE shall make every effort to fully utilize the Lab School for internship programs to prepare future generation of teachers and educational leaders.
8. FGCU COE shall work to ensure that the Lab School teachers, administrative staff, and supportive personnel are fully integrated into COE's culture by including them in the organizational structure and its academic culture.
9. FGCU COE shall promote and support other FGCU colleges and programs to be part of the Lab School's research-based and innovative learning community in light of the school's vision and mission.
10. FGCU COE shall conduct a systematic longitudinal research on the impact of Triple E based learning and teaching model on the learners and teachers.

C. SDLC Responsibilities

1. SDLC shall cooperate to achieve full operation of the Lab School based on the shared vision and mission of the school with FGCU COE.
2. SDLC shall cooperate to ensure that FGCU COE is fully integrated into the Lab School culture by providing office spaces for the Residency Programs and classroom spaces for COE teacher education and educational leadership programs.
3. SDLC shall make efforts to recruit a diverse Pre-K-12 student population into the Lab School.
4. SDLC shall encourage and allow current employees in the school district to participate in the professional development opportunities offered by the Lab School.
5. SDLC shall recognize the professional development provided by FGCU COE as in-service credit.
6. SDLC shall encourage and allow the Lab School teachers, COE faculty and COE students/teacher candidates to implement innovative expeditionary learning and teaching practice through various forms of team- and co-teaching approach to meet the needs of diverse learners in the Lab School.

III. Terms of MOU and Termination

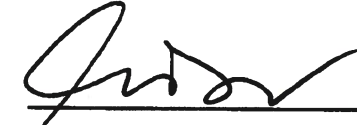
- A. This MOU addresses cooperation and involvement between the Florida Gulf Coast University and the School Board of Lee County for creating the joint PreK-12 Lab School. It is subject to review by the parties who may make amendments to the MOU in writing with the same formalities as this MOU. The term of this MOU is from date of last execution to June 30, 2028. This MOU shall be renewed at every 10-year term and rolling unless one party provides notice of termination. Termination of the MOU may be initiated by either party through written notice provided at least 45 days prior to the end of the current school district semester. However, if there are active participants, the MOU will not be terminated until the end of the current District semester.

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VI. Signatures

In witness whereof, the parties have affixed their signatures, effective the date first written above.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF LEE COUNTY



Cathleen O'Daniel Morgan Date

Chairman



Gregory K. Adkins Date

Superintendent

**FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**



Robbie Roepstorff Date

Vice Chairman



Michael V. Martin 8/29/18

President