

AFFILIATION AGREEMENT
WITH Wellsboro Area School District

THIS AGREEMENT is made this _____ day of _____, 2020, by and between MANSFIELD UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, (hereinafter referred to as “University”), an educational institution of the State System of Higher Education, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the school district, **Wellsboro Area School District** (hereinafter “School District”). The parties intend to be legally bound to the following terms:

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE UNIVERSITY

- a. *Selection of Students.* The University shall be responsible for the selection of qualified students to participate in field experiences, practicum assignments, or student teaching placements. Selected students must have the appropriate educational background and skills consistent with the contemplated educational experience offered by the School District.
- b. *Education of Students.* The University shall assume full responsibility for the classroom and classroom education of its students. The University shall be responsible for the administration of the program, the curriculum content, the requirements of matriculation, grading, and graduation.
- c. *Submission of Candidates.* The University shall submit the names of the students to the School District or a designated representative at least two weeks prior to the field experience, practicum assignment, or student teaching placement.
- d. *Advising Students of Rights and Responsibilities.* The University will be responsible for advising the student of his or her own responsibilities under this Agreement. The student shall be advised of his or her obligations to abide by the policies and procedures of the School District and should any student fail to abide by any policy and/or procedure, he or she may be expelled from the program.
- e. *Professional Liability Insurance.* Students shall be responsible for procuring professional liability insurance at their own expense. The limits of the policy shall be a minimum of \$1,000,000.00 per claim and an aggregate of \$3,000,000.00 per occurrence. This policy must remain in full force and effect for the duration of the field experience, practicum assignment, or student teaching placement.

The School District understands that as an Agency of the Commonwealth, the University is prohibited from purchasing insurance. As a public university and state instrumentality there is no statutory authority to purchase insurance and it does not possess insurance documentation. Instead, it participates in the Commonwealth’s Tort Claims Self-Insurance program administered by the Bureau of Risk and Insurance

Management of the Pennsylvania Department of General Services. This program covers Commonwealth/University-owned property, employees and officials acting within the scope of their employment, and claims arising out of the University's performance under this Agreement, subject to the provisions of the Tort Claims Act, 42 Pa.C.S.A. §§8521, *et seq.*

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

- a. *Establishment of Practicum or Student Teaching.* The School District authorizes the use of its facilities as may be agreed upon by the School District and the University as a center for field experiences, practicum assignments, or student teaching placements. This field experience, practicum assignment, or student teaching placement is for students enrolled in the University's teacher education program, and it is required and authorized by law.
- b. *Policies of School District.* The University will review with each student, prior to the assignment any and all applicable policies, codes or confidentiality issues related to the experience. The School District will provide the University all the applicable information at least two weeks in advance of the student's participation.
- c. *Administration.* The School District will have sole authority and control over all aspects of student services. The School District will be responsible for and retain control over the organization and operation of its programs.
- d. *Removal of Noncompliant Student.* The School District shall have the authority to immediately remove a student who fails to comply with its policies and procedures. If such a removal occurs, the School District should immediately contact the responsible University Faculty Advisor.
- e. *Designation of Representative.* The School District shall designate a person to serve as a liaison between the parties who will meet periodically with representatives of the University in order to discuss, plan, and evaluate the experience of the student(s).
- f. *Supervision of Students.* The School District shall provide either a practicum site supervisor or a cooperating teacher who will supervise student activities during field experiences, practicum visits, or student teaching placements.
- g. *Reporting of Student Progress.* The School District shall provide all reasonable information requested by the University on a student's work performance. If there are any student evaluations, they will be completed and returned according to any reasonable schedule agreed to by the University and the School District.

- h. *Student Records.* The School District shall protect the confidentiality of student records as dictated by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and shall release no information absent written consent of the student unless required to do so by law or as dictated by the terms of this Agreement.

MUTUAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- a. *Number of Participating Students.* The parties will mutually agree upon the number of students that shall be assigned to the School District for field experiences, practicum assignments, or student teaching placements.
- b. *Term of Agreement.* The term of this Agreement shall be five (5) years from the date of execution. This Agreement may not exceed a period of five (5) years.
- c. *Termination of Agreement.* The University or the School District may terminate this Agreement for any reason with ninety (90) days' notice. Either party may terminate this Agreement in the event of a substantial breach. However, should the School District terminate this Agreement prior to the completion of an academic semester, all students enrolled at that time may continue their educational experience until it would have been concluded absent the termination.
- d. *Nondiscrimination.* The parties agree to continue their respective policies of nondiscrimination based on Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in regard to sex, age, race, color, creed, national origin; on Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and on other applicable laws, as well as on the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- e. *Interpretation of the Agreement.* The laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania shall govern this Agreement.
- f. *Modification of Agreement.* This Agreement shall only be modified in writing with the same formality as the original Agreement.
- g. *Relationship of Parties.* The relationship between the parties to this Agreement to each other is that of independent contractors. The relationship of the parties to this contract to each other shall not be construed to constitute a partnership, joint venture, or any other relationship, other than that of independent contractors.
- h. *Liability.* Neither of the parties shall assume any liabilities to each other, except as specifically stated in this Agreement. As to liability for damage, injuries or death to persons, or damages to property, the parties do not waive any defense as a result of entering into this Agreement unless such a waiver is expressly and clearly written into a part of this Agreement.

- i. *Entire Agreement.* This Agreement represents the entire understanding between the parties. No other prior or contemporaneous oral or written understandings or promises exist in regards to this relationship.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the authorized representatives of the parties have executed this Agreement as of the date previously indicated.

Mansfield University of Pennsylvania

Wellsboro Area School District

Joshua Battin, Ph.D.
Dean of Faculty
College of Arts and Humanities

Authorized Signature

Print Name/Title

Please return to:
Mansfield University
Educational Field Experiences
55 Wilson Avenue
204 Retan Center
Mansfield, PA 16933