MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN SPARTANBURG COMMUNITY COLLEGE And THE UNIVERSITY of SOUTH CAROLINA UPSTATE

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Spartanburg Community College (SCC) and the University of South Carolina Upstate (USC Upstate) is to provide a postsecondary alternative to student applicants not accepted for admission to USC Upstate.

DESCRIPTION:

This MOA named the Bridge Program will provide students identified by USC Upstate an opportunity to attend Spartanburg Community College to prepare for a successful transition to USC Upstate. The Bridge Program will be a competitive academic enrichment transfer program available to USC Upstate students by invitation only. The program blends the traditional academic experience at SCC with the social and cultural experiences of being a USC Upstate student. Participants in this program will be high school graduates who narrowly missed admission to USC Upstate. Program participants will enroll at SCC their freshman year before transferring to USC Upstate at a later date.

GENERAL PROVISIONS:

Spartanburg Community College and the University of South Carolina Upstate agree to the following:

- 1. Bridge students must earn at least 30 hours of university transfer coursework with a 2.0 average during their freshman year. Once these requirements are met, students will make a seamless transition to USC Upstate for the subsequent fall semester and will not be required to complete the USC Upstate transfer application process. Students who do not meet these requirements may apply for transfer admission to USC Upstate at a later date.
- 2. Students must complete the Bridge Program within 12 months of starting the program to be eligible for waived application fee and priority registration. A new cohort of students will be invited to participate in the Bridge Program each fall semester. USC Upstate will select the program participants and notify SCC of those selected. SCC will send acceptance notification to the students selected to participate.
- 3. Transfer grades earned at SCC will count towards determining eligibility for the South Carolina LIFE Scholarship.

- 4. Participants will have access to academic advising and are encouraged to participate in the advising programs specifically designed for their needs. A USC Upstate representative will be available to meet with Bridge students throughout their freshman year at SCC and to follow up after USC Upstate enrollment.
- 5. The academic support resources of both SCC and USC Upstate are available and provide a variety of student-centered programs and services to support academic work, including tutoring and academic success workshops to help students succeed.
- 6. During their freshman year, Bridge students will be enrolled full time at SCC granting them access to all academic support services and student life opportunities available at the College, including opportunities to join student organizations and participate in scheduled student activities. Additional services will be available through USC Upstate.
- 7. SCC does not offer on site health care services. Information about competitive health and insurance plans will be made available to Bridge students by SCC.
- 8. Bridge students are responsible for their travel to and from SCC classes. Parking will be available according to SCC policy and procedure.
- 9. The cost to participate in the Bridge Program is relative to the current and applicable SCC tuition and fees while the student is enrolled at SCC. A limited amount of financial aid is available and should be discussed with SCC's financial aid office.
- 10. All Bridge students will be enrolled at SCC during their first year, all financial aid documents, including FAFSA, should be sent to the SCC financial aid office.
- 11. SCC will evaluate Bridge students for eligibility for the LIFE scholarship which covers the amount of full-time tuition and provides an annual \$300 book allowance to eligible students who attend SCC.
- 12. Courses designated as Transitional Studies courses will not count toward the 30-hour requirement. Students needing to enroll in Transitional Studies courses will be encouraged to attend summer school at SCC to prepare for enrollment in university transfer courses in the fall semester.
- 13. Credits earned in AP/IB and dual enrollment programs may transfer to USC Upstate. Bridge students must successfully complete 30 hours at SCC during the freshman year. Students who have completed 30 hours with a 2.0 average by the end of the freshman year will be invited to attend a transfer student orientation session prior to the start of the fall semester at USC Upstate.
- 14. Bridge students may not enroll in classes at USC Upstate while in the Bridge program.

- 15. Bridge students may attend summer school at SCC in order to meet the 30-hour/2.0 GPA requirement.
- 16. SCC will use the COMPASS exam to assess the mathematics, reading and writing skill level of Bridge students to properly place them into mathematics and English classes. The scores on these tests are prerequisites for mathematics and English classes. If Transitional Studies courses are warranted, the student must take those classes before enrolling in a transferable course.
- 17. Participants will be afforded the rights, responsibilities and privileges associated with each participating school's Student Code of Conduct and Grievance Policies and Procedures.
- 18. Spartanburg Community College and USC Upstate will proceed with a joint recruitment effort to advertise the Bridge program. All promotional materials must be approved by both participating institutions. Spartanburg Community College (SCC) will provide a link to the USC Upstate website and USC Upstate will provide a link to Spartanburg Community College (SCC) website.
- 19. The exchange of information between the participating parties will be conducted in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 and section 507 of the U.S. Patriot Act of 2001 regarding the release of student information and student records.

IMPLEMENTATION, REVIEW, AND TERMINATION OF THE MOA

Spartanburg Community College (SCC) and USC Upstate agree to the terms of this agreement, which will begin for the academic year 2007-2008.

This MOA shall become effective upon signatures of Spartanburg Community College's President and the Chancellor of USC Upstate and shall be reviewed annually from the date of the last signature.

The provisions of this agreement may be changed or modified at any time upon the written agreement of Spartanburg Community College's President and the Chancellor of USC Upstate.

Spartanburg Community College and USC Upstate reserve the right to unilaterally terminate this MOA at any time without penalty upon a one semester written notice to the other party at their stated address. Unless there is a notice of intent to unilaterally terminate this agreement this MOA will be automatically renewed for another term.

other party at their stated address. Unless there is a notice of intent to unilaterally terminate this agreement this MOA will be automatically renewed for another term.

SIGNATURES:

Dr. Dan L. Terhune

President, Spartanburg Community College

Dr. John Stockwell

Chancellor, USC Upstate