

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

Webb County
And

HARMONY SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE – LAREDO

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into, by, and between Webb County (hereby known as “Business Partner”) and **Harmony School of Excellence – Laredo**.

WHEREAS, Webb County, a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) field business within the Laredo community, and Harmony School of Excellence – Laredo, a STEM school, desire to collaborate with each other to advance STEM teaching and learning opportunities for Texas students;

RECOGNIZING that the demand in STEM field jobs is growing at a larger rate than non-STEM field jobs;

RECOGNIZING that STEM literacy is vital to the wellbeing of the community and the academic progression of the United States;

RECOGNIZING that the Texas Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics blueprint calls for the collaboration between STEM academies and businesses;

EMPHASIZING that community partnerships can increase student opportunities and further help students hone important 21st century and life skills;

REAFFIRMING the fact that the objectives of the T-STEM initiative are to increase the number of students entering STEM education, and promote the quality of school leadership and teacher preparation;

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the business partner will be part of Harmony School of Excellence-Laredo’s T-STEM Advisory Board and attend at least one meeting per semester.
2. Both parties agree to work together in a collaborative manner to coordinate a schedule of work-based training experiences and a parallel classroom course of study that is agreed upon by the training sponsor and CTE teacher.
3. That Harmony School of Excellence-Laredo and the business partner will work together to review and monitor the school’s career pathway curriculum.

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4. That the business partner will have a plan for work-based learning experiences for students appropriate to each grade level, such as facility visits, guest speakers, presentations, career information, job shadowing, internships, externships, and apprenticeships.
5. That the business partner will provide support for students' activities, such as clubs, Career and Technical Student Organizations, competitions, and special initiatives.
6. That the business partner will offer career mentorship opportunities that may become available for students.
7. That the business partner will provide students' access to business and industry partners and work-based learning facilities, services, and resources for student learning opportunities.
8. That Harmony School of Excellence-Laredo and the business partner will work collaboratively to provide clear roles and responsibilities for worksite supervisors, mentors, teachers, support personnel, and other partners.
9. That Harmony School of Excellence-Laredo will list any student learning opportunities provided by the business partner on the school's website to encourage students to participate.
10. That Harmony School of Excellence-Laredo will recognize the business partner on the school website, and at program events, for their effort in assisting the school and promoting STEM.
11. That Harmony School of Excellence-Laredo is encouraged to partner with the business partner by volunteering in community benefit oriented events that the organization might hold.
12. That Harmony School of Excellence-Laredo shall provide to Webb County, prior to any volunteer appearing to work with Webb County through this MOU, a fully executed volunteer form which is attached and incorporated herein as Exhibit "A". In the event that a student or faculty member is to volunteer for work with Webb County through this MOU then said participant will be subject to a criminal background check.
13. No one under the age of 17 may volunteer to perform work but may participate in activities that are intended to be strictly educational.

The parties may discuss and explore further collaboration, but any collaborative activities not explicitly delineated in this agreement shall be initiated by a separately written addendum between the parties, requiring signatures.

This Memorandum of Understanding is effective on the date it has been executed by both parties and shall remain in effect for two years from such date unless terminated earlier by either party, with at least thirty days prior notice to the other party.

Business Partner: Webb County
By: [Signature]
Name: Tano E. Tijerina
Date: 10-12-2021

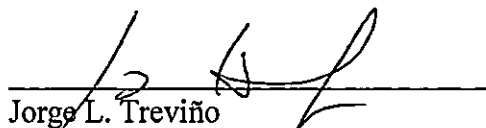
Harmony School of Excellence- Laredo
By: [Signature]
Ahmet Cetin, Principal
Date: 10/05/2021

ATTESTED:



Margie Ramirez-Ibarra
Webb County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Jorge L. Treviño
Assistant General Counsel
Civil Legal Division

The General Counsel, Civil Legal Division's Office may only advise or approve contracts or legal documents on behalf of its clients. It may not advise or approve a contract or legal document on behalf of other parties. Our review of this document was conducted solely from the legal perspective of our client. Our approval of this document was offered solely for the benefit of our client. Other parties should not rely on this approval, and should seek review and approval of their own respective attorney(s).

Passed and approved by the Webb County Commissioners Court
On August 27, 2021 item No. 20.b.