MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is entered into on 10/18/2017 (the "Effective Date," which shall be the date this MOU becomes fully executed), by and between Indian River State College (hereafter referred to as "IRSC") located in Martin, Saint Lucie, Indian River, and Okeechobee Counties, Florida and The Florida International University Board of Trustees, on behalf of Florida International University (hereafter referred as "FIU"). FIU is a member of the State University System of the State of Florida and is located in Miami, Florida, United States of America ("USA"). IRSC and FIU are hereafter individually referred to as the "Party" or collectively as the "Parties." The Parties agree to explore the possibility of developing the highest quality programs to advance the needs of FIU and IRSC.

Both institutions recognize the following commonalities:

1. The compatibility of the direction and interest of their research and teaching; and,

2. The significant roles they each play as leaders in higher education, teaching and research within their respective counties.

Overview and Exploration of Collaboration:

FIU and IRSC aspire to sign a MOU as a way to explore a more intentional collaborative relationship based on the following:

1. FIU and IRSC agree to expand their existing partnership as part of FIU Connect4Success, a guided pathway program for students who intend to transfer to FIU after completing the Associate in Arts (AA) degree.

2. FIU and IRSC agree to establish transfer equivalencies for the Associate in Science (AS) in Hospitality Management to the Bachelor of Science (BS) in Hospitality Management to ensure that students transition directly to upper-division courses, thereby reducing the impact of excess credit hours. (Excess hours may result from failing or dropping courses, and thereby, outside the careful curricular planning developed as part of this MOU.)

3. FIU agrees to accept 60 transfer credits from graduates of the IRSC Hospitality Management AS degree program.

4. FIU and IRSC agree to explore various avenues of collaboration, including academic advising, to encourage AA, AS, and Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) in Organization Management or BS in Business Administration graduates from IRSC, to pursue the BS and Master of Science (MS) degrees in Hospitality Management at FIU.
Via the representatives indicated below, the Parties would encourage direct contact and cooperation among their faculty members and staff. The Parties agree to explore funding possibilities for any activity which might arise.

This MOU serves as an institutional framework for collaborative activities. Specific articulation agreements, beyond the aforementioned approval of 60 transfer credits for Hospitality Management AS students, would need to be drafted by the Parties in the case that the exploration of these areas leads to further developments. These agreements would need to be approved by authorities at each institution. *Nothing in this MOU shall be construed as creating any legal relationship between the Parties.*

Both Parties understand that financial arrangements under this MOU would have to be negotiated and would depend on specific activities and the availability of funds. Any expense incurred by either Party would be subject to individual agreements on a case-by-case basis. The Parties also recognize that intellectual property terms would need to be included in subsequent agreements, as appropriate. In addition, anyone teaching at FIU from IRSC must have the approved credentials; FIU is accredited by the *Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges* ("SACSCOC") and its faculty qualification guidelines represent a commonly accepted best practice for the academic qualifications of faculty.

This MOU is non-exclusive and will become effective on the Effective Date for a three (3)-year period. The MOU may be renewed every three (3) years upon the mutual written consent of the Parties. The MOU may be reviewed in a year-and-a-half (1.5) from the Effective Date to assess results.

This MOU may be amended or further developed by means of written consent of the Parties. The MOU may be terminated with at least 90 days advanced written notice. Notices must be sent to the individuals and addresses indicated below.

**For IRSC:**
Christina Hart, Ph.D.
Vice President, Enrollment &
Student Services
*chart@irsc.edu*

**For FIU:**
Diann Newman, Ed.D.
Associate Dean, Student Services,
Chaplin School of Hospitality and
Tourism Management
*newmand@fiu.edu*

The Parties stipulate that the use of their respective brands, represented by their headings and logotypes, could only be used by a Party with the previous and express written authorization of the other Party. This MOU does not authorize any one of the Parties to express him/herself on behalf of the other, either verbally or in writing or to act on each other’s behalf.
The individuals named below sign this MOU on behalf of their respective Parties and represent and warrant that they have the requisite authority to bind their respective Parties.

**Indian River State College**

By: ________________________________

Printed Name: Edwin R. Massey Ph.D.

Title: President

Date: ________________________________

**The Florida International University Board of Trustees**

By: ________________________________

Printed Name: Elizabeth M. Bejar, Ph.D.

Title: Vice President for Academic Affairs

Date: ________________________________

By: ________________________________

Printed Name: Mike Hampton, Ed.D.

Title: Dean

Date: ________________________________

*Approved as to the Form and Legal Sufficiency:*

By: ________________________________

Printed Name: Isis Carbajal de Garcia

Title: Senior University Counsel

Date: ________________________________

Original signed document on file in the IRSC Department of Articulation and Partnerships.