



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between the
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT PINE BLUFF
and the
UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA DE BAJA CALIFORNIA

Preamble

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into by and between the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, hereinafter referred to as UABC – Ensenada Campus, which is located in Ensenada, Baja California, in the Republic of Mexico, and the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System acting for the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, hereinafter referred to as UAPB, which is located in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, United States of America. This MOU is designed to set forth the intent and framework for collaboration in support of mutually beneficial goals and areas of interest. The document is not intended to imply or require legally binding commitments and/or obligations but is in support of the envisioned goals and activities outlined in this document.

The Context

Universidad Autonoma de Baja California

According to its organic law published February, 28th, 1957 it is an institution dedicated to public service and whose purpose is to provide higher education for the development of professionals, scientific research and the extension of cultural benefits. The University is headed by **Dr. Juan Manuel Ocegueda Hernández** who was appointed Rector of the University by its Board of Trustees on January, 27th 2015 and based on such appointment has full and legal authority to sign this agreement. The UABC's legal address is Ave. Álvaro Obregón y Calle Julián Carrillo s/n Colonia Nueva, Mexicali, Baja California, México.

University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

UAPB was established in 1873 as an act of the Arkansas Legislature. Established as Branch Normal College in 1875. UAPB expanded into a four-year institution in 1929 as Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical and Normal College. In 1972, the institution underwent its most recent phase of restructuring when it was named the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. The University is located in the Arkansas Delta region of the Lower Mississippi River Basin and is classified as a historically black college and university (HBCU) with an 1890 land-grant designation. UAPB's land grant designation refers to a category of higher education institutions that receive substantial government support for research, teaching and service activities designed to meet the needs of rural, agriculture-based economies. For more than 140 years, the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff has worked to create an environment that inculcates learning, growth and productivity while affording a basic need to its students – a chance to advance.

UAPB's interest in a linkage relationship with UABC is influenced by trends that require proactive, creative and forward-thinking interventions that will have substantive and practical implications for teaching and extension. The first trend is state government's increasing demand for accountability and performance in the higher education sector. Legislative Act 1203 of 2011 codifies the gubernatorial and legislative intent to raise enrollment and retention rates of the state's institutions of higher education. Another trend of significance is the globalization of the national economy and, indeed, all aspects of contemporary society. This dynamic has profound implications for the agriculture sector, higher education in general and land-grant institutions in particular. The Faculty, Extension and Staff of the Department of Aquaculture and Fisheries have a strong track record of global engagement reinforced by the increasingly global dimensions of the aquaculture/fisheries industry.

Rationale for Collaboration

UAPB and UABC share the goals of research, teaching and extension for local, regional and national development. Both institutions are committed to emphasize the broadening of educational access for undergraduate, graduate and continuing studies. Lessons learned in the actualization of a commitment to academic excellence will be of benefit to both institutions as they adapt and respond to the challenges and opportunities of a global society.

Scope of Collaboration

UAPB and UABC will work collaboratively in support of the following goals and objectives:

Goal One: Faculty and Staff Professional Development and Institutional Strengthening

Objectives:

- To provide master's and doctorate level opportunities for junior faculty for purposes of knowledge and skills transfer
- To strengthen departmental and divisional components within collaborating partner institutions
- To establish systems of transnational peer support and mentoring for long-term professional collaboration
- To foster and establish systems and modalities for interdisciplinary and interdepartmental networking and collaboration, including joint scientific research projects and technology development
- To develop proposals for basic and applied research funding agencies
- Joint development of publications
- To conduct courses, conferences, seminars, meetings, workshops, conferences, etc of interest for both institutions.
- To foster the exchange of academic staff, either for teaching, research or consulting purposes in the fields of interest for both institutions.

Goal Two: Faculty and Student Exchanges

Objectives:

- To provide opportunities for on-site research and collaboration at partner institutions
- To foster and build skills in cross-cultural awareness and interactions for undergraduate, graduate and post-doctoral scholars
- To develop and strengthen research skills for undergraduate and graduate students

Goal Three: Collaborative Research and Scholarship

Objectives:

- To establish systems of transnational peer support and mentoring for long-term professional collaboration

- To strengthen scholarly and technical skills in quantitative and qualitative methodologies
- To enhance skills, modalities and approaches for interdisciplinary research
- To increase the number and diversity of faculty involved in transnational collaborative research
- To enhance the number, scope and quality of research activities that address challenges within the aquaculture and fisheries industries

In achieving the above stated goals and objectives, the following disciplines or fields shall be given priority consideration although the list presented is not intended to be exhaustive or exclusive of other disciplines of inquiry:

- Aquaculture Sciences
- Fisheries Sciences

Communications and Management Systems

Oversight for this linkage relationship shall be vested in Dr. Jose David Ledezma Torres, International Academic Director (UABC), and Dr. Pamela Moore Associate Dean for Global Engagement and Designated Linkages Coordinator at UAPB. Day-to-day communications and tasks associated with linkage activities will be handled by Dr. Lus López Acuña, Graduate Studies Director (UABC) and Dr. Herbert Quintero, Aquaculture Research Station Manager (UAPB), who will serve as the liaison for linkage activities at their respective institutions. There may also be specific designation of project coordinators for bilateral projects funded in support of this MOU. Subsequent detailed work plans may be developed and incorporated into the terms of this MOU as set forth as appendix document(s).

Legal Requirements of Contractual Agreements

It is not the intention of this MOU to contravene the laws of any country. It is understood that each party to this MOU shall operate in accordance with the laws and regulations of their respective country. In the case of UABC, these are laws and regulations of the Republic of Mexico. In the case of UAPB, these are laws and regulations of the United States of America, including export control, and the State of Arkansas as well as those institutionally mandated policies and procedures. 9

It is anticipated that the parties to this agreement may seek funding in support of goals and activities previously outlined. In such instances, certain relevant laws and regulations governing such projects may be determined by the respective funding agencies. Any anticipated conflict of laws will be subject to review and negotiations, as appropriate, in consultation with the respective legal departments of the partners involved in the contractual agreement.


Monitoring and Evaluation

Project monitoring and evaluation will be an on-going process determined by the nature and range of specific projects in the implementation phase. An assessment of linkage performance will be conducted on an annual basis according to the policies and procedures of each institution. Monitoring and evaluation for funded projects will be in accordance with the guidelines and regulations stipulated by the respective funding agencies.

Signatories

In witness of an agreement to the foregoing, UAPB and UABC hereby execute this five-year MOU as demonstration of their commitment to work together to strengthen their respective institutional capacity in areas of mutual benefit and interest. The parties represented below therefore affix their signatures to this document.

**UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
AT PINE BLUFF**



Dr. Laurence B. Alexander
Chancellor

11-6-2015

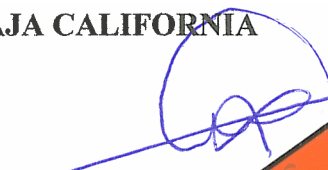
Date

**UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA
DE BAJA CALIFORNIA**

Dr.
Rector

Date

**UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA
DE BAJA CALIFORNIA**



Dr. José David Ledezma Torres
International Academic Director
Witness