



PARTNERSHIP MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

2019-2021

The MidValley Consortium (MVC) for Teacher Education is a collaborative effort of four colleges and universities and seven school divisions in the Shenandoah Valley. In an effort to formalize this partnership and to establish procedures for on-going communication through input and shared decision-making, this MOU serves to articulate the responsibilities and expectations of members of the consortium.

The goals of the MVC are to foster collaborative partnerships in order to:

- Develop a cadre of trained clinical faculty who are exemplary models of effective teaching and strong mentors for their student teachers
- Develop and nurture leadership and mentoring skills and abilities of clinical faculty, to support their work with pre-service and novice teachers
- Respond to the needs of the consortium members on matters of mutual benefit, including accreditation standards related to clinical partnerships, identification and training of clinical faculty, streamlining procedures related to fieldwork, and other identified areas of need
- Facilitate greater cooperation and communication among consortium members

The MVC shall include two standing subgroups that engage in collaborative practices for meeting the above goals:

- The MVC Advisory Council shall be made up of at least one institutional representative from each of the four colleges and universities, and at least one administrative representative from each of the seven school divisions, with one partnership vote for each of the eleven Consortium Members. The purpose of this group is to review policies and procedures of the MVC, to ensure open communication and responsiveness, and to commit resources to the work of the MVC. This group may appoint additional committees to address identified needs. (Furthermore, the deans/directors of the respective colleges and universities shall meet on an ongoing basis for discussion, evaluation, and goal-setting.)
- The MVC Mentorship and Clinical Experience Team shall be made up of at least one representative from the colleges and universities. All Local Education Agencies (LEAs) will be invited to be represented. The purpose of this committee is to co-identify and co-train new and established clinical faculty for the important work of mentoring and supporting student teachers. Additionally, this team also provides further professional development to clinical faculty in the area of mentoring new teachers and other projects related to the MVC mission.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs)

- The IHEs in the MVC shall include Bridgewater College, Eastern Mennonite University, James Madison University, and Mary Baldwin University.
- The IHEs will appoint members to each MVC committee.
- The IHEs shall work with school division personnel for the placement of practicum students and student teachers, providing requests with sufficient notice.
- The IHEs shall work with school division administrators and clinical faculty to provide mentorship and supervision to student teachers, and shall be responsive to addressing matters of concern.
- The IHEs shall provide stipends to school division personnel (teachers) who host student teachers. These stipends are allocated from each IHE's operating budget and are separate from the consortium budget.
- The IHEs shall support the work of the MVC Mentorship and Clinical Experience Team to train clinical faculty.
- The IHEs shall also support the work of the MVC Mentorship and Clinical Experience Team in their efforts to provide professional development for clinical faculty serving as mentors for new teachers.
- The IHEs shall solicit feedback and input from the school divisions at regular intervals and work, through their role on the MVC Advisory Council, to offer responsive solutions for furthering collaboration to support mutually beneficial practices.
- One of the IHEs shall manage bookkeeping for the budget of the MVC.
- One of the IHEs shall handle administration/coordination of scheduling and other administrative tasks of the MVC.
- One of the IHE institutional representatives shall co-chair the MVC Advisory Council with an LEA representative as co-chair.

Roles and Responsibilities of the School Divisions/Local Education Agencies (LEAs)

- The LEAs in the MVC shall include the counties of Augusta, Page, Rockingham, and Shenandoah, and the cities of Harrisonburg, Staunton, and Waynesboro.
- The LEAs will appoint members to each MVC committee.
- The LEAs shall work with the IHEs to place practicum students and student teachers within their school division, giving priority to placing student teachers with clinical faculty who have demonstrated effectiveness in the classroom as indicated by a proficient or exemplary evaluation rating.
- The LEAs shall communicate confirmation of such placements with the IHEs in a timely manner.
- The LEAs shall work with IHEs to co-select clinical faculty through a process of recommendations and solicitation of interest.
- The LEAs shall work with IHEs to evaluate the effectiveness of clinical faculty.
- The LEAs shall work with the IHEs to maintain a current list of active clinical faculty.
- The LEAs shall support the work of the MVC Mentorship and Clinical Experience Team to train clinical faculty, and shall allow professional leave and cover the cost of substitutes for teachers attending such trainings.
- The LEAs shall support the additional work of the MVC Mentorship and Clinical Experience Team in their efforts to provide professional development for clinical faculty

serving as mentors for novice teachers, and shall allow professional leave and cover the cost of substitutes for teachers attending such trainings.

- The LEAs shall provide regular feedback to the IHEs regarding any matters of mutual concern including, but not limited to: the teacher preparation program, particular needs related to hard-to-fill vacancies, the fieldwork/placement request process, and the communication process.
- The LEAs shall support the IHEs in their work to collect data regarding the effectiveness of completers, for the purposes of accreditation, by co-establishing agreeable procedures.
- One of the LEA representatives shall co-chair the MVC Advisory Council with a IHE institutional representative as co-chair.

The undersigned, as representatives of their IHEs or LEAs, agree to the above expectations and responsibilities of the MVC. This agreement shall be reviewed biennially.

IHE or LEA	Name of Representative (Printed)	Title	*Signature & Date
Bridgewater College	Barbara H. Long	Division Head; Interim Director, TEP	Barbara H. Long October 30, 2019
Eastern Mennonite University	Cathy Smeltzer Erb	Chair, Undergraduate Teacher Education	<i>Cathy Smeltzer Erb</i> October 17, 2019
James Madison University	Bryan S. Zugelder for Mark L'Esperance (Dean)	Associate Dean, College of Education	<i>Bryan S. Zugelder</i> October 31, 2019
Mary Baldwin University	Rachel Potter	Dean, College of Education	Rachel S. Potter October 17, 2019
Augusta County Schools	Jill Martin	Executive Director of Personnel	Jill R. Martin October 24, 2019
Harrisonburg City Schools	Andrew Ansoorian	Executive Director of HR	Andrew Ansoorian, October 31, 2019
Page County Schools	Lance Moran	Asst. Superintendent for HR and Bus. Op	Lance Moran October 17, 2019
Rockingham County Schools	Michele Judd	Chief HR Officer	Michele Judd October 17, 2019
Shenandoah County Schools	David Hinegardner	Dir. Administrative Services & Strategic Planning	<i>David Hinegardner</i> October 17, 2019
Staunton City Schools	Sharon H. Barker	Instructional Supervisor	Sharon H. Barker October 17, 2019
Waynesboro City Schools	Vermell B. Grant	Assistant Superintendent	Vermell Grant October 30, 2019

*An electronic signature constitutes agreement to this MOU.