Memorandum of Understanding for Academic Partnership

between

Louisiana University Marine Consortium (LUMCON)

and

Historically Minority Serving Institutions and Historically Black Colleges and Universities in Louisiana

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets for the terms and understanding between the Louisiana University Marine Consortium (hereafter LUMCON) and individual Historically Minority Serving Institutions (hereafter HMSI) and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (hereafter HBCU) in Louisiana for academic partnership in offering consortium courses, internship and research opportunities, summer camps, and on campus marine science clubs to HMSI and HBCU students.

I. Background

Established in 1979 by the State legislature, LUMCON is to promote, facilitate, and conduct research and education collaborations among Louisiana’s universities in marine and coastal sciences relevant to the sustainability of coastal and marine environments of the Gulf of Mexico. Furthermore, LUMCON’s education mission is to enable the next generation of marine scientists and ocean-literate citizens by providing meaningful and relevant place- and skill-based education and to significantly impact Louisiana’s diverse citizenry, including those populations underrepresented and underserved in marine science.

II. Purpose

The purpose of this MOU between LUMCON and HMSI/HBCU is to build a successful academic partnership to provide marine and coastal science education to HMSI/HBCU students in Louisiana.
III. LUMCON’s Responsibilities

- LUMCON will provide **online semester courses** taught by several LUMCON and/or Consortium Member faculty, e.g. Changing Coastal Oceans, Oceans and Society, Scientific Leadership. Courses will serve [or enroll] undergraduate and graduate students across multiple Consortium Member institutions. LUMCON will coordinate these courses and course instructors. LUMCON will provide facilities and assets for field trips associated with these courses to the DeFelice Marine Center.

- LUMCON will coordinate a Marine Science Club Chapter on the HMSI/HBCU campus to provide undergraduate students with an opportunity to engage with and gain access to LUMCON resources while at their home campuses. LUMCON will develop a science-intensive and multi-disciplinary curriculum for the Club Chapter. LUMCON will coordinate with Club Chapters to develop and participate in their own service project that has a real and significant impact on their local communities. LUMCON will bring Marine Science Club members from across the state during events designed to strengthen collaboration between chapters.

- LUMCON will provide funding, when available through the foundation, and mentoring for one student per HMSI/HBCU annually to pursue a research internship at LUMCON.

- LUMCON will provide funding, programming, and space for at least four HMSI/HBCU students per HMSI/HBCU annually in a Marine Science Camp for HBCU students to take place at LUMCON. This is contingent on available funding. This camp will focus on helping students realize their potential and talents while cultivating new skills as they consider their future careers in marine and coastal science. The camp is designed for students that are transitioning from high school to college or early in their undergraduate studies.

- At the end of the semester, LUMCON will issue a certificate of completion to the student and to the registrar at each participating student’s HMSI/HBCU that will list recommendations for the assignment of credit and grades for all courses taken by the student. The HMSI/HBCU and LUMCON agree that communications, records and/or information regarding a student’s activities and/or performance (hereinafter “Student Information”) at LUMCON shall be considered “educational records” for the purposes of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (“FERPA”). The HMSI/HBCU and LUMCON shall disclose such student information only to authorized personnel identified by the parties in writing and shall not otherwise disclose or release Student Information unless authorized to do so under FERPA and its accompanying
regulations.

IV. HMSI/HBCU Responsibilities

- The HMSI/HBCU will provide support to LUMCON to ensure the course offerings align with the HMSI/HBCU curriculum and education requirements.
- The HMSI/HBCU agrees to keep course catalogs and semester/term schedule booklets updated with current LUMCON course offerings and actively promote LUMCON course offerings to its student population.
- The HMSI/HBCU will provide faculty members to serve as a liaison to LUMCON, serving as a club chapter sponsor, and to identify students for internships and camps.
- The HMSI/HBCU will ensure that their campus chapter has the on-campus resources needed for meetings and club activities.
- The HMSI/HBCU will transfer to LUMCON, before the last week of the semester or term, 75% of the tuition (fees and other charges stay 100% with the HMSI/HBCU) collected from students enrolling in Consortium Courses. The HMSI/HBCU will provide a contact for billing.

V. Effective Dates and Changes to MOU

Terms and conditions of this MOU are effective beginning on January 1, 2022. This MOU is valid until such time as LUMCON or the HMSI/HBCU provides a one-year written notice that the agreement is dissolved. Amendments to this MOU must be approved in writing by both LUMCON and the HMSI/HBCU.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, LUMCON and (HMSI/HBCU), through their duly authorized representatives, execute this MOU.

Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium LUMCON

By: ________________________
Dr. Craig McClain, Executive Director
Date: Friday 12/17/2021

Dillard University

By: Dr. Yolanda W. Page, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Date: Dec 15, 2021

By: Mr. Ralph Johnson, Vice President for Business and Finance/CFO
Date: Dec 16, 2021

By: Mr. Brendan Greene, General Counsel
Date: Dec 15, 2021