

MINISTERIO DE EDUCACIÓN Y CULTURA

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
OF NORTH CAROLINA

AND

THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND
CULTURE OF SPAIN

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THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION OF NORTH CAROLINA

AND

THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE OF SPAIN

- ❖ Considering that education is the best means of fostering understanding and solidarity between countries;
- ❖ Considering the ever-increasing presence of Spanish in business and cultural relations in the State of North Carolina;
- ❖ Considering the ever-increasing population of Hispanic origin in North Carolina;
- ❖ Considering that knowledge of the Spanish language, spoken by more than 350 million people, constitutes an important cultural asset;

The Department of Public Instruction (hereafter referred to as the Department) and the Ministry of Education and Culture of Spain (hereafter referred to as the Ministry) agree to this historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to benefit both the State of North Carolina and Spain.

The goals of this agreement are:

- 1.- To promote cultural and educational relations that shall be mutually beneficial to North Carolina and Spain.
- 2.- To foster knowledge and appreciation of the culture shared by these two communities.
- 3.- To encourage an educational environment that supports students and educators in their continued and future efforts toward personal, academic, and professional success.

In recognition of the above, the Department, represented by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Ministry, do hereby establish the following:

MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES

The Department and the Ministry agree to establish collaborative efforts in the manner described in Articles 1 through 6 as follows:

Article 1

NORTH CAROLINA/SPAIN/VIF VISITING TEACHERS PROGRAM

Section 1

The Department and the Ministry recognize the important contribution that a North Carolina/Spain/VIF Visiting Teachers Program (NCSVIF) would make to both education in North Carolina and the professional enrichment of the participating educators from Spain.

Section 2

Each year during the term of this agreement, the Ministry will:

- a. Announce in Spain the number of teaching positions available under the NCSVIF for the forthcoming school year and the area of expertise needed, according to the needs expressed by The Visiting International Faculty Program (hereafter referred to as VIF).
- b. Review the educational background and professional experience of applications and select prospective NCSVIF candidates.
- c. Review the educational qualifications and experience of the selected visiting teachers and make recommendations to VIF regarding their appropriate placement at the district level.

Section 3

Each year during the term of this agreement, the Department will:

- a. Facilitate the appropriate accreditation for the Visiting Teachers.

Section 4

Each year during the term of this agreement, the Department, the Ministry, and VIF will jointly:

- a. Meet regularly to provide leadership and direction to the Visiting Teachers program.
- b. Negotiate Agreements of Collaboration with participating school districts.
- c. Maintain and update the provisions of this MOU.

Section 5

1. The Visiting International Faculty Program agrees to:

- a. Select Visiting Teachers from among those preselected by the Ministry.
- b. Take the necessary measures in conjunction with the Ministry and the Department to obtain certification of selected teachers.
- c. Take the necessary measures to provide the teachers with the corresponding J-1 visas and act as their sponsor.
- d. Collaborate with the Ministry and the Department on the preparation and administration of training courses for Visiting Teachers.
- e. Provide support to Visiting Teachers with collaboration of the Ministry to facilitate their transition to the cities and schools where they will teach.
- f. Determine the relevance of the academic background and experience of the candidates and make recommendations to participating districts regarding appropriate placement of candidates.
- g. Provide orientation and mentor opportunities for Visiting Teachers.

2. The Department and the Ministry agree that VIF will carry out the functions specified in Section 5.1 of this Memorandum according to the ongoing norms and conditions of the Visiting International Faculty Program as offered in North Carolina.

Section 6

VIF and the Ministry will ensure that each school district participating in the NCSVIF has a fully executed Agreement of Collaboration. A copy of a sample agreement is included as Appendix A to this MOU and is to be used as a reference herein.

Article 2

TEACHER SUMMER SEMINARS

Section 1

The Department and the Ministry agree that the participants in the Summer Institutes held at universities in Spain have enjoyed substantial professional benefits and intend to continue to encourage North Carolina teachers to participate in them during the extent of this Agreement.

The Ministry will continue to organize the seminars and provide participants with partial scholarships toward the cost of the seminar.

The Department will publicize the Institutes and will explore ways to collaborate with foundations, organizations, and businesses to partially defray the costs of these Institutes for North Carolina teachers.

Article 3

SPANISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT

Section 1

During the first year of the Memorandum, the Department and the Ministry agree that a Spanish Language Consultant appointed by the Ministry will be available to assist the Department with educational improvement initiatives related to second language acquisition, foreign language instruction, and heritage language instruction, as well as other collaborative efforts established by this MOU.

Section 2

The Department will accord the consultant the same status and privileges as other educational consultants employed by the Department and will assure his/her recognition by the school districts of the State.

Section 3

The Ministry will support the salary, travel, and other appropriate costs associated with the position of the consultant. The Department will provide the consultant with a work station, clerical assistance (inclusive of duplicating services, telephone usage, general office supplies and postage) and travel monies associated with departmental duties.

Section 4

After the first year, the Ministry of Education and Culture of Spain and the Spanish consultant will work with the Department and a university in the State of North Carolina to plan for the establishment of a Spanish Resource Center.

Article 4

EDUCATOR/STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Section 1

The Department and the Ministry agree to continue their collaborative efforts for North Carolina and Spanish educators and students to have exchange opportunities between North Carolina and Spanish schools and will seek to develop and implement such opportunities throughout the extent of this MOU.

Article 5

PARTICIPATION IN NORTH CAROLINA'S ENDEAVORS TO IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

Section 1

The Department and the Ministry agree to direct efforts to improve language instruction.

Section 2

The Ministry will continue to provide instructional assistance to school districts and to professional associations, supporting and helping in the planning, organizing, and holding of the statewide conferences of such professional associations.

Section 3

In order to improve understanding between Elementary and Secondary Schools in Spain and in North Carolina and to open new possibilities for exchange and communication, the Ministry will design an exchange program through electronic mail. A home page to help teachers introduce the student to topics adequate for cross-cultural comparison will be developed.

Article 6

TERMS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Section 1

The term of this MOU will be five (5) years, beginning June 3, 1999, and renewable if all parties are willing.

Section 2

This MOU will be terminated by either the Department or the Ministry if such a decision is reported to the other signatory by written note six (6) months in advance.

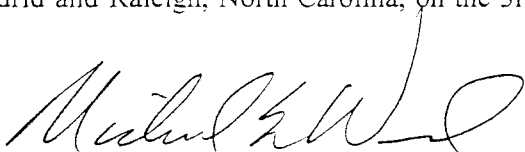
Section 3

The terms of this MOU may be extended and the provisions may be modified upon approval of a MOU addendum by all signatories.

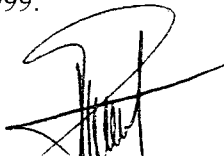
Unless otherwise determined, any addendum to the MOU will take effect when signed by the Department, the Ministry and Visiting International Faculty Program.

As long as it is not explicitly denounced and withheld, this MOU between the North Carolina Department of Education, the Ministry of Education and Culture of Spain, and The Visiting International Faculty Program will be valid in all its effects.

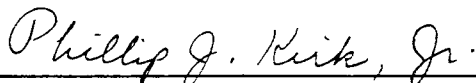
This MOU is signed in English and in Spanish and both Memoranda are equally valid in Madrid and Raleigh, North Carolina, on the 3rd of June, 1999.



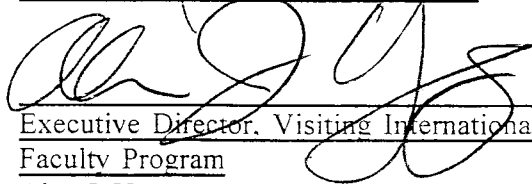
State Superintendant of Public Instruction of N.C.
The Honorable Michael E. Ward



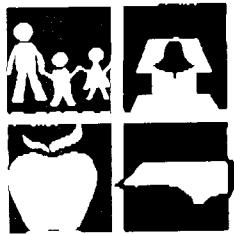
P.A. Gonzalez Gomez Dacal
Counselor of Education and Science
Embassy of Spain, Washington, D.C.



Chairman, State Board of Education of N.C.
Mr. Philip J. Kirk, Jr.



Executive Director, Visiting International
Faculty Program
Alan J. Young



Public Schools of North Carolina

State Board of Education
Phillip J. Kirk, Jr., Chairman

Department of Public Instruction
Michael E. Ward, State Superintendent

<http://www.dpi.state.nc.us>

March 29, 1999

Mr. Gonzalo Gómez-Dacal
Education and Science Counselor
Embassy of Spain
2375 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20037-1736

Dear Mr. Gómez-Dacal:

On behalf of the Public Schools of North Carolina, I would like to invite you to attend the meeting of the State Board of Education on May 6, 1999 beginning at 8:30 AM. At the start of the meeting, we will have the official signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with your government.

We are very appreciative that the Spanish government has offered to enter into this agreement with us to strengthen Spanish language instruction in North Carolina. The visiting teachers from Spain will be excellent language models for our students and who will also serve as cultural representatives in our schools and communities. The Spanish consultant will assist our second language staff in providing technical assistance and inservice training to teachers across the state. He/she will be particularly helpful to us as we work toward implementing the revised *K-12 Second Language Standard Course of Study* next year. The Summer Institutes in Spain will provide our foreign language teachers the opportunity for a valuable educational experience that will certainly enhance their classroom teaching.

Please accept my thanks on behalf of all of us in the public schools for your willingness to collaborate with us to improve second language education in our state. I look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to North Carolina. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Fran Hoch, Section Chief for Second Languages, at 919-715-1797.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Ward

MEW:fsb

Article 2

TEACHER SUMMER SEMINARS

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