Sandhills Regional Education Consortium:  
Sandhills Leadership Academy  
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

WHEREAS, Sandhills Regional Education Consortium (SREC: SLA), 
________________________ School System, the other nine (9) school systems comprising the 
SREC, Fayetteville State University (FSU), University of North Carolina at Pembroke 
(UNC-P), and North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT) have 
come together to collaborate and to make an application for Race to the Top/ Z.  
Smith Reynolds Alternative Licensure for School Principals Grant (SREC:  
SLA); and

WHEREAS, the school systems and partners listed below have agreed to enter into a 
collaborative agreement in which the SREC will be the lead agency and named applicant 
and the other agencies will be partners in this application; and

WHEREAS, the school systems and partners herein desire to enter into a 
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) setting forth the participation, services, 
support, and involvement to be provided by their collaborative roles and functions; 
and

WHEREAS, the application prepared and received approval of the grant proposal by the 
collaborative votes of the SREC Superintendents’ Council on October 14, 2010 and 
approval of the proposed grant by the North Carolina State Board of Education on 
December 2, 2010;

I) Description of Partner School Systems, Institutions of Higher Education and 
Agency

A. Sandhills Regional Education Consortium (SREC) – The SREC is a consortium of 
eleven (11) school systems (Anson County, Cumberland County, Ft. Bragg Schools, 
Harnett County, Hoke County, Lee County, Montgomery County, Moore County, 
Richmond County, Public Schools of Robeson County, and Scotland County) 
geographically located in the Sandhills Region of North Carolina. The SREC provides 
professional development training for teachers and administrators, coordinates 
leadership meetings for identified groups, assist with collaborative efforts between the 
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, regional institutions of higher 
education, and/or various other professional organizations, and submits proposals for 
grants on behalf of the eleven (11) school systems.
B. All of the school systems are pre-k through 12 grade public school systems except Ft. Bragg which is a K through 9 Department of Defense school system. The Ft. Bragg System will not be participant in this grant.

C. Fayetteville State University is a public comprehensive regional university, offering degrees at the baccalaureate, master’s, and doctoral levels; and is located in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Committed to excellence in teaching, research, and service to the community, the university seeks to prepare its students and graduates to lead meaningful and productive lives. Preparing future educators at the undergraduate and graduate levels continues to be a primary focus of Fayetteville State University.

D. The University of North Carolina at Pembroke is a comprehensive university and one of 17 constituent institutions that comprise The University of North Carolina system. UNC Pembroke has had a long tradition of providing outstanding teachers and school executives for the region and state at both the undergraduate and master’s levels. UNCP is committed to excellence in a balanced approach to teaching, research/scholarly activity, and public service and is located in the community of Pembroke, North Carolina.

E. The North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching is a recognized national leader in professional development programming for teachers. Established by the North Carolina state legislature in 1985, NCCAT provides a year-round curriculum of intensive cross-disciplinary seminars in the sciences, arts, humanities, technology, leadership, communication, and health and wellness. NCCAT is a place where teachers “advance teaching as an art and a profession” through a wide range of experiential study and learning opportunities. In addition, NCCAT has established the Principal Scholars Initiative to help principals gain greater skills in instructional leadership. NCCAT has two locations: Cullowhee and Ocracoke, N.C.

II) History of Relationship

The school systems within the Sandhills Regional Education Consortium have worked together for over ten (10) years in a collaborative effort to improve the teaching and leadership capabilities of the educators within the region. During this time, there has been an ongoing effort between the school systems and the regional institutions of higher education to collaborate on the needs of education. The superintendents and the Deans of Education meet jointly on a regular basis to address the various identified needs. In addition, regional educators serve on a variety of advisory committees and boards associated with both FSU and UNC-P.
II) History of Relationship (continued)

Also, the school systems have encouraged and supported teachers from across the region to attend NCCAT seminars addressing many of the ongoing instructional needs in their classrooms. NCCAT has provided outstanding professional development for the teachers of the SREC during the last twenty-five (25) years.

As a result of these strong historical relationships, all partners participated in the development of the SREC: SLA grant proposal and all will be active participants in the implementation as outlined in the grant proposal except for Ft. Bragg schools.

III) Roles and Responsibilities

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby agreed by and between the school systems and partners as follows:

1) The SREC Superintendents’ Council comprised of the superintendents, the Deans of Education from the universities, and the Executive Director of the SREC will be the governing body to accept and monitor the grant. The Sandhills Leadership Advisory Committee for the SREC: SLA comprised of one representative from the school systems, partners, Executive Director of the SREC, and the Supervisor of the SREC: SLA will work collaboratively to develop and monitor the development of curriculum, select executive interns, provide ongoing evaluation of staff and programs.

2) The superintendent of each SREC member school system will identify and recommend three (3) to four (4) prospective participants for participation as Executive Interns for the school years 2011-2012, 2012-2013, and 2013-2014. There will be twenty (20) Executive Interns selected from across the region to participate in the twelve (12) month SREC: SLA per year of the grant. The Executive Interns will remain the employees of the school system and their salaries and benefits will be paid by the SREC: SLA grant received from the NC State Board of Education.

3) The partners (FSU, UNC-P, and NCCAT) will assist with the program development, implementation, and evaluation as indicated in the SREC: SLA grant proposal.

4) All school systems and partners will participate in the implementation and evaluation of the SREC: SLA from 2011-2014 unless there is a mutual agreement to not participate.
IV) Timeline

The roles and responsibilities described above are contingent on SREC receiving funds requested and approved by the North Carolina State Board of Education on December 2, 2010 for the project described in the SREC: SLA grant application. Responsibilities under this Memorandum of Understanding would coincide with the grant period, anticipated to be **February 1, 2011** through **August 15, 2014**.

VI) Commitment to Partnership

1) The collaboration service area includes the Sandhills Region of North Carolina comprised of Anson County Schools, Cumberland County Schools, Harnett County Schools, Hoke County Schools, Lee County Schools, Montgomery County Schools, Moore County Schools, Richmond County Schools, Public Schools of Robeson County, and Scotland County Schools.

2) The partners agree to collaborate and provide assistance with the curriculum development, program evaluation, and space for appropriate meetings and activities associated with the implementation of grant as outlined in the grant proposal.

3) We, the undersigned have approved this MOU at an official meeting of

**Sandhills Regional Education Consortium**

By ________________________  
James R. Simeon  
Executive Director  
Sandhills Regional Education Consortium

Date ________________________

By ________________________  
Dr. Johnny Hunt, Chair  
Sandhills Regional Education Consortium – Superintendents Council

**School Systems**

By ________________________  
Dr. Greg Firim  
Superintendent  
Anson County Schools

Date ________________________

By ________________________  
Lisa G. Davis  
Chair  
Board of Education  
Anson County Schools

Date ________________________
Sandhills Regional Education Consortium:
Sandhills Leadership Academy
Memorandum of Understanding

Page 5

By ________________________________  By ________________________________
Dr. Frank Till  Carrie Sutton
Superintendent  Chair
Cumberland County Schools  Board of Education

Date ________________________________  Date ________________________________

By ________________________________  By ________________________________
Phil R. Ferrell  Billy B. Tart
Superintendent  Chair
Harnett County Schools  Board of Education

Date ________________________________  Date ________________________________

By ________________________________  By ________________________________
Dr. Freddie Williamson  Hank Richards
Superintendent  Chair
Hoke County Schools  Board of Education

Date ________________________________  Date ________________________________

By ________________________________  By ________________________________
Dr. Jeff Moss  Shawn E. Williams
Superintendent  Chair
Lee County Schools  Board of Education

Date ________________________________  Date ________________________________

By ________________________________  By ________________________________
Dr. Dale Ellis  Steven W. DeBerry
Superintendent  Chair
Montgomery County Schools  Board of Education

Date ________________________________  Date ________________________________
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>By</th>
<th>By</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Susan Purser</td>
<td>Dale Frye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superintendent</td>
<td>Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moore County Schools</td>
<td>Board of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Moore County Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By</td>
<td>By</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. George Norris</td>
<td>Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superintendent</td>
<td>Board of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond County Schools</td>
<td>Richmond County Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By</td>
<td>By</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Johnny Hunt</td>
<td>Loistine P. DeFreece</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superintendent</td>
<td>Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Schools of Robeson County</td>
<td>Board of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Public Schools of Robeson County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By</td>
<td>By</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick Stout</td>
<td>Jimmy Bennett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superintendent</td>
<td>Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland County Schools</td>
<td>Board of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scotland County Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sandhills Regional Education Consortium:
Sandhills Leadership Academy
Memorandum of Understanding
Page 7

Partners

By_________________________________________ Date_____________________
Dr. Leontye Lewis
Dean
School of Education
Fayetteville State University

By_________________________________________ Date_____________________
Dr. Leah Fiorentino
Dean
School of Education
The University of North Carolina at Pembroke

By_________________________________________ Date_____________________
Dr. Mary D. McDuffie
Executive Director
The North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching