

For Immediate Release

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Harris-Stowe Partners with Southern Illinois University Graduate School

ST. LOUIS, MO (April 22, 2013) – Dr. Albert Walker, president of Harris-Stowe State University (HSSU) and Dr. Rita Cheng, chancellor of Southern Illinois University-Carbondale (SIU-C) have officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing formal ties to provide HSSU students the opportunity to complete their graduate degrees at SIU-C upon graduating with their bachelor of science degrees from HSSU.

As part of the collaboration, the universities will participate in joint academic activities and encourage the transition of HSSU students to graduate school at SIU, with academically qualified students eligible for an alternative tuition rate that is equivalent to the in-state rate. As such, HSSU students will have priority in the SIU graduate school application process and entry fees will be waived.

To commemorate the event, 16 HSSU students were invited and hosted by SIU for the signing. Thereafter, the students met with SIU administrators and faculty to discuss their educational goals and learn more about graduate programs in areas such as Microbiology/Biochemistry, Plant Biology, Public Health, Accounting, Mathematics, History, Behavioral Analysis and College Student Personnel.

“Harris-Stowe State University is eager to develop this most-anticipated collaboration with SIU Carbondale,” said president Walker. “SIU’s more than 60 master’s degree programs will give our students the educational diversity and options needed to flourish in an academic environment following undergraduate studies at Harris-Stowe. We have instilled great professional and academic qualities in our students, and we know that they will excel in the next phases of their college careers. This partnership is one that will be mutually beneficial to both HSSU and SIU.”

In addition to the cultural, educational and exchange opportunities the MOU provides, emphasis on joint grant proposals will further increase research opportunities for both institutions. To launch the partnership, both universities will appoint representatives to a planning and assessment team that will work toward an action plan, determine progress and outcomes, evaluate the success of the collaboration and determine future actions to maintain, revise and strengthen the relationship between them.

The MOU is another step in HSSU achieving its mission and vision to provide educational and collaborative partnerships and outreach programs with other educational institutions. Furthermore, offering educational experiences that emphasize excellence in all areas and promote the development of effective communication skills, interpersonal growth, critical thinking, workplace readiness and an understanding of and appreciation for diversity. The agreement is for a five-year period and can be renewed.

Harris-Stowe State University, located in midtown St. Louis, is a four-year institution that offers 14 degree programs in the areas of Accounting, Business Administration, Biology, Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Health Care Management, Hospitality and Tourism Management, Information Sciences and Computer Technology, Mathematics, Middle School Education, Professional Interdisciplinary Studies, Secondary Education and Urban Affairs. Ranked by *U.S. News* as one of America's Best Colleges in the Midwest, the university, which has been in existence for more than 150 years, offers the most affordable bachelor's degree in the metropolitan area.

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