

AGREEMENT

**BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO AT MAYAGÜEZ
AND
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS**

**UPRM-Department of Social Sciences Research Continuation Program to the
Summer Research Opportunity Program at UIC**

This Agreement is entered into by and between **The University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez (UPRM)**, a public Hispanic serving institution (HSI) and part of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico university system, with principal offices at Mayaguez, PR, represented by its Chancellor, Dr. Jorge Iván Vélez Arocho, and **The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois**, a public body, corporate and politic of the State of Illinois with principal Chicago offices at 1737 W. Polk, Suite 415, Chicago, Illinois, on behalf of its Chicago Campus' Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP).

WHEREAS, the Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) at University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) is designed to introduce university sophomores and juniors to the academic and intellectual rewards of graduate study and SROP has expressed its interest in attracting and recruiting Hispanic/Latino students with research skills;

WHEREAS, a paramount goal of the Department of Social Sciences at the UPRM is to increase the number of its students that choose to pursue advanced degrees in the Social Sciences and related fields and the current UPRM administration has expressed its interest in promoting formal cooperation agreements with other universities;

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Sciences at the UPRM has developed or collaborated with summer internship programs in the past such as the Minority Opportunity Summer Training (MOST) program of the American Sociological

Association and the Population Fellows Program at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, which have had similar objectives to the SROP at UIC;

WHEREAS, the UPRM's Center for Applied Social Research (CISA) of the Department of Social Sciences extensive experience with student research and mentoring programs, has demonstrated that one of the best ways to maximize a student's summer research oriented internship experience is through a follow up period in which faculty members mentor, guide and supervise the continuation and application of gained skills and knowledge;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and of the mutual promises set forth herein, UPRM and UIC agree as follows:

I. PURPOSE and GOALS

9 The coordinators of the SROP at UIC and the Department of Social Sciences and CISA have agreed that a follow-up experience to the SROP would be a valuable reinforcement to the program goals. A mentored research continuation program would be an excellent way to not only enhance the overall internship experience but also to potentially increase the number of students who pursue graduate studies in the social sciences. Therefore, the UIC-SROP and the CISA and the Department of Social Sciences at UPRM propose to develop and coordinate a pilot Undergraduate Mentored Research Program for UPRM participants in the UIC-SROP.

The general aim of this program will be to enhance the UPRM participant's SROP experience with time, research experience, mentorship and resources to develop the interests and skills obtained through his/her participation in the UIC-SROP. This aim

will increase the probability that the goals of both, the UIC-SROP and the Department of Social Sciences at UPRM, will be obtained.

II. PROGRAM

A. Selection of Participants: UPRM Students interested in participating in the pilot program will apply to the UIC-SROP through an internal selection process at UPRM-Department of Social Sciences. The UPRM affiliated faculty will form a committee that will be in charge of screening the applicants based upon the written materials required for the UIC-SROP, plus a face-to-face interview. The UPRM affiliated faculty committee will recommend only the most qualified students following the UIC-SROP criteria and focusing on the applicant's expected graduation date, interest in academic social science research and his/her goal to pursue a graduate degree in one of these disciplines. Other UPRM student may still apply to the SROP directly through UIC procedures. However, the UPRM does not guarantee the research continuation program to students that do not go through the internal selection process.

B. Requirements of Participants:

1. UPRM students from the Department of Social Sciences selected to participate in the SROP-UIC must return to UPRM and complete an academic year, continue researching the topic under the mentorship of a UPRM faculty member with the purpose of producing a publishable quality paper to include in the graduate school application package, submit it to a peer reviewed outlet and

to prepare visual professional/academic presentations of his/her research.

2. The UPRM student or students selected by the UIC-SROP to participate will comply with all of the SROP requirements and all applicable UIC policies, procedures and guidelines.
3. Throughout the duration of the program the student will be required to submit at least one (1) project progress report and one final report to the UPRM and the SROP.
4. At the end of the academic year, the participant will be required to submit an article for publication and to present the research results at a formal local, regional or national professional forum.

C. *UPRM and SROP Faculty Mentors*

The UPRM faculty mentor will be selected among the affiliated faculty by the Chair of the Department of Social Sciences at UPRM in agreement with the SROP coordinators. The SROP will select the UIC faculty mentor following the program's procedures already in place. The mentor at UPRM will have similar expertise and/or research interests to that of the SROP mentor. Both mentors will collaborate in the development of the student's research objectives and research calendar.

III. UPRM RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. *Preparation of Participants:*** Through the Department of Social Sciences, UPRM will identify and prepare potential candidates to participate in the

UIC-SROP, increasing the UPRM candidates' ability to meet the Program's acceptance requirements.

B. *Faculty Mentor:* Through the Department of Social Sciences and in consultation with the Deanship of Arts and Sciences, UPRM will provide a faculty mentor for the UPRM participant, to supervise and administer the research continuation experience for one (1) academic year. The institutional incentive for each faculty mentor will be three (3) credits (25%) release time per semester, for a total of six (6) credits release time throughout the academic year. The student must enroll in one independent study per semester (3 credits per semester, 6 credits total) with his/her faculty mentor in order to receive a grade for his/her research.

C. *Equipment and Resources:* Through the Center for Applied Social Research, UPRM will provide a working station, and access to a photocopier, a phone line and a computer with printer where the student would work on his/her project and meet with his/her UPRM mentor. Also, through the College of Arts and Sciences and upon availability, UPRM will provide a budget of at least \$1,000 per academic year for research expenses incurred as part of the project. In order to obtain funding, the participant will submit a formal research proposal at the beginning of the academic year specifying the nature of his/her research, calendar of activities, and a formal letter of commitment from the faculty mentor towards the project. A committee, designated by the Departmental Chair and the College of Arts and Sciences, will evaluate the proposals on a

competitive basis. The faculty mentors will be responsible for the administration of the students' funds.

IV. UIC-SROP RESPONSIBILITIES: UIC-SROP will consider heavily the research continuation program in the UIC-SROP participant selection process. During the application review process, the UIC-SROP will pay particular attention to the types of opportunities (e.g. mentorship, resources, etc.) that UPRM would provide the students after the completion of their summer research experience.

V. GENERAL PROVISIONS:

A. Term: This Agreement will remain in effect for three years from the date on which it is signed by both parties; should the signing take place separately, the term will begin on the date of the last signature.

B. Termination, Renewal, and Modification: This Agreement may be renewed, terminated, expanded, and/or modified by agreement of both parties, in writing, at least thirty (30) days prior to such intended action.

1. The request for renewal, modification, and/or expansion will be presented to the Chancellor of the University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez and the Coordinators of the UIC-SROP, as applicable. Said request must be accompanied by an evaluation of the execution of the present Agreement.

2. If the present Agreement is not renewed, expanded, or modified, both parties are committed to the completion of activities in progress. The expiration of the Agreement will not affect the

development and completion of the programs, projects or activities that are still in progress.

C. Maintenance of Records: Both parties are committed to maintaining records of all reports, timesheets for jobs or assistantships, and all other documents related to the services discussed in this Agreement pursuant to the applicable customs, laws, policies and regulations of their respective institutions.

D. Liability: It is understood and agreed that neither party to this Agreement shall be liable for any negligent or wrongful acts, either of commission or omission, chargeable to the other unless such liability is imposed by law and that this Agreement shall not be construed as seeking to either enlarge or diminish any obligation or duty owed by one party to the other or to a third party.

E. Notice: All communications hereunder shall be in writing and shall be sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, or by an overnight courier service, to the persons listed below. A notice shall be deemed to have been given when received at the specified notification address.

Notices to UPRM shall be sent to:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

FAX: _____

Notices to UIC-SROP shall be sent to:

NAME: José Perales, Assistant Dean
ADDRESS: Graduate College (MC 192)
601 S. Morgan Street
Chicago, Illinois 60607-7106

TELEPHONE: (312) 413-2559

FAX: (312) 413-0185

F. Governing Law: This contract is to be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois.

G. Enforcement and Interpretation of Agreement: The parties declare that they sign this agreement and agree to its stipulations in good faith; and by that good faith they commit themselves to all actions that will ensure its fulfillment. Should there arise a discrepancy in interpretation, it will be resolved by the mutual consent of the parties in the same spirit which led them to sign it.

Approval and Effective Date

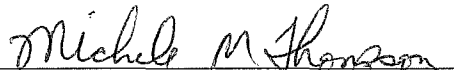
Having read this document and been made aware of the content and scope of each of its clauses, confident of the benefits this accord will bring forth at both Institutions, and in order to commit themselves to the objectives of this program and to the responsibilities they agree upon, and having indicated that in its formalization there is no fraudulent intent, bad faith, or any other defect that might invalidate the agreement, the parties sign their consent. This Agreement shall not be binding until signed by all parties.

The persons signing this Agreement represent and warrant that they have authority to bind their respective parties.

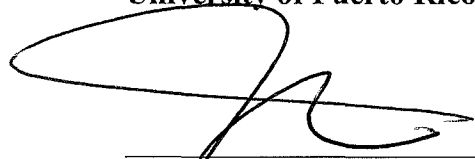
**The Board of Trustees of the
University of Illinois**

By: 
Walter K. Knorr, Comptroller

Date: 12/5/07

Attest: 
Michele M. Thompson, Secretary

University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez


Jorge Iván Vélez Arocho, Ph.D.
Chancellor

Date: Apr 8, 2008