

*Summer Research Opportunity Program Agreement*

Between

***The College of Agricultural Sciences  
The Pennsylvania State University  
United States of America***

And

***The College of Agriculture  
University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez***

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding entered into between the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez (UPRM) and The Pennsylvania State University (Penn State), dated April 10, 2007, the cognizant administrators of the two institutions agree to implement the following project:

I. Project Description:

The Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP) was initiated in 1986 by the CIC Graduate Deans to encourage talented undergraduate students to pursue graduate study and subsequently academic careers. The overall objectives of the program are:

- to stimulate the interest of under-represented ethnic minorities students in graduate and/or professional school in agricultural and related science disciplines.
- to promote scientific exploration in basic and applied research in agricultural and related science disciplines.
- to provide professional development seminars to instill confidence that one can do the work.

This agreement will provide the opportunity for at least three UPRM students to participate in the Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences Summer Research Opportunities Program. Students should desire to pursue graduate school once they complete their undergraduate studies at UPRM. Every effort will be made to facilitate their Penn State Graduate School application including the provision of a PSU Graduate School application fee waiver. Students for SROP should be at least rising juniors and will receive the following:

- Round Trip Airfare between Puerto Rico and State College, PA.
- Room and Board for the duration of the SROP Conference.
- Research/SROP Mentor.
- At least a \$3000 stipend (Students will not be allowed to take classes or work additional jobs during SROP).
- Detailed information regarding graduate studies in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

In return each student scholar will be expected to:

- Write a research paper under the leadership and guidance of their faculty mentor describing their summer research project
- Present their research findings at the annual CIC SROP Conference and the Penn State SROP Research Symposium.
- Attend weekly professional development sessions during the duration of the SROP Program.
- Share information about the Penn State SROP Program with the faculty and their peers at their University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez.

II. Background and Rationale: Relevant strengths at both institutions

During Associate Dean Gladys Gonzales's visit to Penn State in fall 2005, she expressed an interest in her students participating in Penn State's SROP. It was agreed that Penn State will accept at least three UPRM students for the next three years. At the end of the three year cycle, Penn State and UPR@M will evaluate the effectiveness of the program and make decision regarding future participation. UPRM has exceptional students, and past participants have fared very well in Penn State's CAS graduate programs.

The students will be placed in Penn State/CAS faculty programs where they will work as part of the faculty's research team. This close collaboration gives the students an opportunity to learn more about conducting research and gives the faculty an opportunity to learn more about the students to determine if the student would be a good fit for our graduate programs.

III. Implementation Procedures: (Specifics)

The two institutions will contribute to the success of the program in the following ways:

Fall and Early Spring	UPRM will advertise the program to its students.
April 15	UPRM will nominate three students and submit names, resumes, transcripts and letters of recommendation for each student to Dr. Lyons.
April 30	Penn State/CAS will contact each of the UPRM students nominated to answer their questions regarding SROP.
May 1	Penn State/CAS will forward application materials to Penn State's Graduate School.
May, June	Penn State's Graduate School Office of Graduate Educational Equity (OGEE) will contact UPRM students, make travel and housing reservations.
June	Penn State's Graduate School OGEE will pick up students from airport, orient students to SROP and pay students first stipend installment.



June, July, August UPRM students will work with CAS faculty mentor. During the summer the students will attend a SROP CIC Conference at one of the "Big Ten" Institutions.

Penn State's OGEE, CAS's Assistant to the Dean will attend SROP functions and research symposium.

August CAS's Assistant to the Dean will debrief CAS-UPRM students.

August, September CAS's Assistant to the Dean will share SROP results with Dr. Gonzales, including copies of papers, posters and PowerPoints.

UPRM will provide opportunities for the UPRM students to share their research with faculty and peers at Mayaguez.

#### IV. Funding/Financing

Program costs are shared among Penn State's faculty, College of Agricultural Sciences and OGEE.

#### V. Administration

Penn State's CAS Assistant to the Dean will coordinate all efforts with the key staff from University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez and the staff of the Penn State Graduate School's OGEE to plan for the students' arrival, stay and departure.

#### VI. Evaluation/Assessment Clause

Each student will create a PowerPoint presentation and write a research paper under the guidance of their CAS Faculty Mentor. Both documents will be submitted to the Penn State CAS Assistant to the Dean for Diversity and to the College of Agriculture Associate Dean for Academics at Mayaguez.

Each CAS SROP student will be debriefed and asked to complete a brief questionnaire at the end of the program.

VII. Agreement will be effective for five years and will be assessed after three years.

#### **The Pennsylvania State University**

Ann H. Dodd Date 4-10-07  
Ann H. Dodd  
CAS, Assistant Dean for Strategic  
Initiatives

C Lyons Date 4/10/07  
Catherine Lyons  
CAS, Assistant to the Dean for Diversity  
Enhancement

#### **University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez**

Gladys M. González Martínez Date 10 April 07  
Gladys M. González Martínez  
CAS, Associate Dean for Academic  
Programs

John Fernández Van Cleve Date APRIL 10, 2007  
John Fernández Van Cleve  
CAS Dean