

**EXTERNAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO  
MAYAGUEZ CAMPUS  
UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO AT CAYEY  
UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO AT HUMACAO  
UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO AT AGUADILLA  
UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO  
RIO PIEDRAS CAMPUS  
UNIVERSITY OF TURABO**

**History of Collaboration**

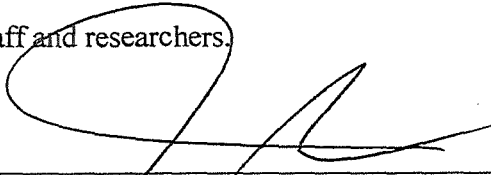
The University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus (UPRM) has established coordination and collaboration with other campuses of the University of Puerto Rico, other universities of Puerto Rico, and non-profit and non-government community service providers to promote community development through participatory action research and service learning.

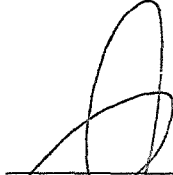
The University Institute for Community Development established at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus in 2003 provided an opportunity for university students to be actively involved in community development projects. The Institute integrates students from campuses of Mayagüez, Cayey, Humacao, Aguadilla, Ponce, Arecibo and Río Piedras and Interamerican University, Arecibo Campus. The Ana G. Méndez University System at Turabo University will participate in this research as well.

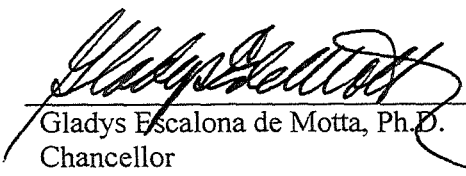
The overall goal of the integrated and multidisciplinary project: "Participatory Action Research to Mitigate Obesity in Children" is to reverse the trend of obesity occurring in Puerto Rico. The supporting goals are to have (a) implemented an effective strategy for preventing overweight and obesity in elementary school children using Extension personnel and university students of the University Institute for Community Development in collaboration with the personnel and students in an individual school, (b) better insight into behavioral and environmental factors that influence obesity, (c) developed valid and effective environmental and behavioral instruments to measure progress in a Spanish speaking community. The municipalities of the Caguas Region of the Extension Service of Puerto Rico will identify the communities, either urban or rural, Special Community or Public Housing Project. A study and comparison community will be selected in each municipality. An intervention based on Participatory Action Research will be used to gain community support of the project and determine techniques to be used to accomplish the goals of the project.

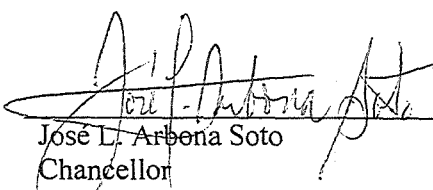
Commitment and Participation


We hereby agree to support a collaborative partnership to ensure the development of the project. The faculty and student volunteers will participate in participatory action research in the selected communities and in project activities in coordination with the project staff and researchers.

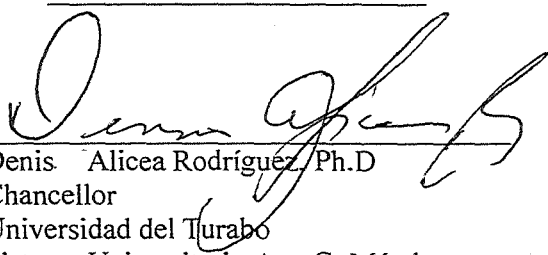
  
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Jorge Iván Vélez Arocho, Ph.D.  
Chancellor  
University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus  
Date: May 17th 2007

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ram Lamba, Ph.D.  
Chancellor  
University of Puerto Rico at Cayey  
Date: 11/10/07

  
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Gladys Escalona de Motta, Ph.D.  
Chancellor  
University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus  
Date: May 14, 2007

  
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José L. Arberia Soto  
Chancellor  
University of Puerto Rico at Aguadilla  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Hilda Colón-Plumey, Ph.D.  
Chancellor  
University of Puerto Rico at Humacao  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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Denis Alicea Rodríguez, Ph.D.  
Chancellor  
Universidad del Turabo  
Sistema Universitario Ana G. Méndez  
Date: 5-14-07