

Memorandum of Understanding

Agreement of Cooperation between the School of Education, Stanford University and the Centro de Estudios de Políticas y Prácticas de la Educación, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

BACKGROUND

Researchers and educators at Stanford University and Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile have been cooperating since 2006 to enhance teacher education capacity in Chile and the international comparative understanding of educational reform and policy-making processes. In 2007, the Stanford Teacher Education Program at the Stanford School of Education, led workshops in Chile for teacher educators from a consortia of Chilean Universities ; in the same year, the Institute for Research on Educational Policy and Practices at the Stanford School of Education agreed to collaborate in joint research projects focused on pressing questions related to the skills of effective teachers and student performance, with the *Centro de Estudios de Políticas y Prácticas en Educación* of the Catholic University of Chile. These initiatives will be expanded and sustained in the next five years, in the framework of a cooperation agreement between the Chilean Government and the State of California and their joint 'CHILE-CALIFORNIA PLAN'.

1. Institutions involved:

The institutions entering into this MOU are the Stanford University School of Education (hereafter SUSE) and the Faculty of Education and the Centro de Estudios de Políticas y Prácticas de la Educación, at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (hereafter PUC).

2. Objectives:

SUSE and the PUC agree to cooperate with the purpose of:

- i) Strengthening and broadening conceptions and practices of teacher education at PUC and at the Stanford Teacher Education Program (STEP);
- ii) Advancing interdisciplinary comparative research in the field of educational policies and practices at both SUSE and PUC;
- iii) Enhancing SUSE faculty's competence in issues of Latin American educational policy and practice.

3. Rationale:

The academic rationale for this agreement of cooperation and the encompassed exchange possibilities is to develop, through joint research, graduate student training, and cooperation on training of elementary and secondary teachers, a better comparative understanding of educational reform and improvement in the United States and Latin America, and, through faculty and graduate student exchange, to strengthen the curriculum and the pedagogical practices for training school teachers both at PUC and STEP.

4 Activities

The objectives indicated in § 2 will be achieved by means of cooperative activities on teacher education, joint research projects, and graduate student training.

The two institutions agree to:

- a. Encourage the development of funded comparative research projects involving faculty and, where possible, graduate students from both institutions;
- b. Provide opportunities for SUSE faculty members and graduate students involved in STEP and IREPP to lecture at the Faculty of Education of PUC, collaborating in a systematic way to develop its faculty, curriculum, and training practices.
- c. Provide graduate studies opportunities for Chilean students at SUSE, training up to 4 Ph.D. and up to 8 Masters degree students, in the five years duration of the project, subject to applicants meeting SUSE criteria for admission and subject to going through the standard selection process.
- d. Provide opportunities for SUSE faculty and graduate students to carry out research in Chile, associated with PUC.

§ 5 Financing

Resources for the research and training activities foreseen in § 4 will be made available in the framework of the *Chile-California Plan* agreed to by the Chilean Government and the State of California on June 12, 2008. Financial considerations for these collaborations and exchanges will be determined through a separately negotiated MOU between SUSE and PUC. In preparation for this financial MOU, the collaborating institutions agree to prepare within ninety days from June 13th 2008, a timetable and a budget for their joint research and training activities. This document will be the basis for application to funding by the *Chile-California Plan*.

