

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION VII**

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

**WITH**

**HASKELL INDIAN NATIONS UNIVERSITY**

INTRODUCTION

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has an ever-increasing need for well trained, qualified scientists, engineers and other professionals to meet the technological needs of the future. At the same time, the number of students, particularly minorities, electing to pursue science and technical majors is decreasing. Innovative strategies must be implemented to assure an adequate supply of highly-trained technical personnel for the accomplishment of environmental research and developmental programs.

To help meet this objective, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is being established between EPA and Haskell Indian Nations University (Haskell). The purpose of this MOA is to formalize and strengthen ties between EPA and Haskell in order to enhance the education and training of students and increase the relevance of university research to EPA's mission.

BACKGROUND

In order to meet the requirements of the United States' and Tribal nations' research, environmental, and scientific needs, and the equally important national policy of full participation of all of our citizens, it is clear that the lack of full participation of American Indians/ Alaska Natives and other minorities should be addressed.

Haskell clearly offers a rich resource to provide the required institutional framework to address the problem of under representation of American Indians/ Alaska Natives in scientific, finance, mathematics, information technologies (e.g., Geographical Information Systems) and Environmental Protection Specialist fields, in addition to the participation of these minorities in the Nations' environmental programs.

This MOA provides the information for the development of a comprehensive program which will result in mutual benefit to Haskell and EP A.

GOAL

The goal of the program described in this MOA is to provide a mechanism for the development of activities which will lead to the strengthening and growth of mutually beneficial educational, scientific and technical programs conducted jointly and independently at Haskell.

## PROGRAM

Recognizing the unique resources offered by Haskell, the ongoing environmental science and other educational activities, and the high potential for expanding environmental science, research, and training programs in areas of interest to EPA, this MOA is being initiated to formalize joint program activities that will assist Haskell to enhance its research and educational capabilities, and assist EPA in achieving its mission. The following activities are the types of joint ventures contemplated through this program:

Joint research projects

Faculty research participation

Student internships, cooperative education and employment through programs such as the Outstanding Scholars Program

Ad hoc technical assistance

Haskell/ EPA staff/ faculty appointments

Mini-courses/ seminars at Haskell by EPA professional staff members

Equipment loans and/ or donations to Haskell that support education, research and training programs

Outreach Program

Provide assistance in securing grant opportunities

**Joint Research Projects** - Haskell will participate in research sponsored by EPA either through submitting proposals for grants and/or cooperative agreements directly to EPA's Office of Research and Development or through joint collaboration with other EP A components.

**Faculty Research Participation** - Visits of Haskell faculty, staff, and students to EPA facilities for consultations, meetings, workshops, short courses, and research participation will be encouraged and facilitated. Temporary faculty appointments may be offered during summer periods and, when appropriate, may be sponsored for longer-term research participation. Such appointments will be within Haskell discretion.

**Student Internships and Employment** - Haskell students will be encouraged to take advantage of the many programs that exist at EPA operated facilities that are designed for student research participation and training. Current programs that allow undergraduate students to gain valuable experience and training during the

academic year and/or the summer as cooperative education employees or summer employees will be encouraged. In concert with EPA, Haskell will identify graduate and undergraduate students who will participate in the existing Summer Intern or Cooperative Education Program. Vacancy announcements will be furnished to Haskell for posting.

**Technical Assistance** - EPA will provide assistance to Haskell with development of proposals where those proposals relate to EPA's mission. EPA may visit Haskell for consultations, meetings, workshops, and seminars. EPA will also assist Haskell with development of syllabi for course work at Haskell

**Haskell/EPA Staff/Faculty Appointments** - Haskell will offer, within its discretion, adjunct faculty appointments for EPA staff who are significantly participating in this program. EPA will grant visiting scientist status to Haskell staff members significantly participating in the program. Interagency Personnel Agreement (IPA) assignments for EPA employees will be encouraged.

**Mini-Courses/Lectures/Seminar Speakers** - EPA will inform Haskell about educational support which can be offered through the Agency, including: mini-courses, lectures, and seminars covering biology, chemistry, engineering, physical science, environmental science, waste disposal and other subjects based on EPA expertise and school requirements.

**Equipment Loans** - EPA will provide excess and surplus research, scientific equipment and office furniture to Haskell that meet the needs of current and planned education, research and/or training programs, particularly in the Environmental Science, Mathematics and Information Technology Departments. The equipment lent by EPA will remain the property of EPA until transferred to Haskell in accordance with Federal property regulations. Haskell, with separate research components, may participate in the equipment loan program. EPA will pay the cost of transporting equipment to Haskell or share the cost as agreed upon by EPA and Haskell. When EPA pays the full transportation cost, the gaining institution must present a statement certifying funds are not available to support moving the equipment.

**Outreach Program** - EPA may provide assistance to Haskell in developing programs to attract minorities and females to careers in environmental science by providing students with experience beginning in pre-college programs in grades 10 through 12. This may be accomplished by working with area tribal schools. The program will be designed to enhance academic skills, career awareness, and exposure to practicing environmental scientists.

## PROGRAM DESIGN

This MOA is intended to provide a significant positive impact on the following areas: 1) the quality of science, technical and other professional education; 2) the relevance of

Haskell research projects to EPA's environmental mission; 3) the problem of under equipped university research facilities, and 4) the number of American Indians/ Alaska Natives and other minority students electing to pursue graduate study and research careers in science, finance, mathematics, and information technologies (e.g., Geographic Information Systems). It is expected that Haskell's capacity to develop environmental workers will be significantly enhanced while important contributions are made to EPA's overall research and development programs.

### ORGANIZATION OPERATION

This collaborative program will be administered by a committee, through EPA's Academic Relations Program, which is chaired by an EPA Campus Executive and which includes representatives from Haskell appointed by the President. This committee will be augmented as required by EPA's Academic Relations Coordinator and staff members. The Committee's primary responsibilities include the following:

Preparation of collaborative program plan and the preparation of annual program and project reports.

Submission of the program plan, including resource requirements to the Regional Administrator to support inclusion as appropriate in the annual EPA budget.

General program liaison necessary to meet mission goals and objectives.

Development and presentation of policy, objectives and projects for the approval of institutional and departmental management within EPA and Haskell.

### SUMMARY

The undersigned agree, on this sixth day of May, Nineteen Hundred and Ninety-Nine, to the program described in this Memorandum of Agreement. We further agree that either party shall retain the right to withdraw from this program upon timely notification to the other member and the completion of the current obligations.

Signed on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 1999 by:

Dr. Bob Martin, President  
Haskell Indian Nations University

Mr. Gil Vigil, President  
Haskell Board of Regents

Dennis Grams, P.E.  
Regional Administrator, EPA Region 7