

**Memorandum of Understanding  
Between the  
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine  
And the  
National AHEC Organization**

Whereas, the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) and the National Area Health Education Centers Organization (NAO) desire to establish a closer collaborative working relationship between their two organizations; and

Whereas, AACOM and NAO desire to establish a process that will enable them to more effectively accomplish objectives that are of mutual interest and importance to their two organizations; and

Whereas, AACOM and NAO desire to establish a formal liaison between their two organizations that will further the above-stated goals;

Now, therefore, the AACOM and NAO agree as follows:

AACOM and NAO will each:

1. Designate from within the organization
  - a. one member who will be its principal liaison for issues related to this agreement and will communicate regularly with the other organization's liaison about such issues.
  - b. members in addition to the appointed liaison to work with the other organization on specific issues and activities of mutual interest to the two organizations
  - c. a staff contact person who will work with the designated liaisons to assure effective implementation of this agreement;
2. Collaborate to develop mechanisms through which members of each organization will become better informed about the mission, activities, and issues of importance to the other organization;
  - a. Publicize, in its organizational publications and other appropriate venues, the other organization's conferences and activities of general interest to members of both organizations; and
  - b. Invite the other organization to contribute articles and other appropriate submissions for its organizational publications; and
  - c. Establish on its web site a link to the other organization's site indicating the collaborative relationship and liaison contact information; and
  - d. Provide to the other a waiver of the registration fee for the designated liaison representative or designee at each others annual meeting.
3. Collaborate on education and policy issues of mutual interest:
  - a. Consistently inform the other organization of legislative, regulatory, and public policy issues on which its organization is focusing; and

- b. Identify ways in which the two organizations can more effectively engage in joint advocacy on legislative, regulatory and public policy issues of mutual concern; and
- c. Collaborate on development and/or presentation of educational projects addressing issues within the mission and expertise of each organization; and
- d. Upon specific request and specific agreement, both organizations will share data to address questions related to health care workforce and health professions education; and
- e. Every two years, collaborate on a review of this document and the inter-organizational relationship it represents.

This agreement is effective of the date the last required signature is affixed below and will remain in effect until canceled by either party or amended by mutual agreement of both parties.

Agreed to on behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine by:

Agreed to on behalf of the National AHEC Organization by:



Stephen Shannon, DO MPH  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
AACOM



Susan Moreland  
President, Board of Directors  
NAO

11/7/06  
Date

OCTOBER 20, 2006  
Date