2013 Education Partnership Agreement
Blue Ridge Community & Technical College and
American Sentinel University
July 23, 2013

Executive Summary
1. Provide a full complement of nursing and non-nursing education programs for Blue Ridge Community & Technical College employees and graduates that are consistent; all from one university:
   - Bachelor's Nursing Degree completion Program (RN to BSN)
   - Master's Nursing Degree Program, with five specializations (MSN)
   - Accelerated RN to MS Nursing Degree Program (RN to MSN)
   - Doctorate of Nursing Practice Executive Leadership Degree Program (DNP)
   - Doctorate of Nursing Practice Educational Leadership Degree Program (DNP)
   - Infection Prevention and Control Certificate
   - Technology and business degrees at the Bachelor's and Master's level; and certificates
2. Establish a "common education understanding, language & perspective" throughout Blue Ridge Community & Technical College – with consistent education regardless of department or work schedule
3. Provide a special tuition structure that helps Blue Ridge Community & Technical College utilize its tuition dollars cost-effectively and efficiently.
4. Provide a Tuition Deferment program for Blue Ridge Community & Technical College employees and graduates who are interested.
5. Create opportunities, where possible, for students to work on Blue Ridge Community & Technical College-specific issues/projects via course assignments.
6. Create and report student progress summary (by term or semester) for Blue Ridge Community & Technical College management.
7. Where possible, promote American Sentinel University amongst Blue Ridge faculty, graduates and alumni.

American Sentinel University has several unique features that can be advantageous for Blue Ridge Community & Technical College. These program features are:

- Accredited university with CCNE-accredited bachelor's and master's nursing degree programs
- 100% online platform (no campus or classrooms; engage weekly at student's convenience; except DNF)
- ADN/ASN gives you 60 transfer credits into our BSN program
- 8-week courses; new terms and semesters begin monthly
- Earn MSN, or accelerated RN to MSN, in one of 5 specialization areas:
  - Case Management
  - Infection Prevention and Control
  - Nursing Informatics
  - Nursing Management and Organizational Leadership
  - Nursing Education
- DNP Executive Leadership and DNP Educational Leadership
- School, programs and student support designed for adults / working professionals
- One of the most affordable online programs
- Prior college and work experience can fast-track degree with transfer credits
- Unparalleled personal support from professors, student success advisors and staff geared for working adults / health professionals (including special 'new student' advisors focused on getting you started)
- Continue to work (and parent) full-time
Special Features for Blue Ridge Community & Technical College Employees

1. Accelerated Admissions
Required documentation for all enrolling students includes the following (we assume all nursing students hold at least an RN license):
- Application for admission (online application)
- Resume
- Copy of Associate and/or Bachelor of Science and/or Master of Science transcripts
- Copy of active/unencumbered RN license (nursing degree programs)
Applications will receive 24-hour turnaround. Advanced credits will be evaluated within 72 hours.

2. Special Tuition for Blue Ridge Community & Technical College
American Sentinel offers Blue Ridge Community & Technical College employees and graduates special scholarship rates, per below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013 Standard Tuition</th>
<th>2013 Blue Ridge Tuition - 5% BSN Scholarship</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RN to BSN:</td>
<td>$395/credit hour*</td>
<td>$375/credit hour*</td>
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<td>$5,625 for 5 courses in one year (3 credit hours per course)</td>
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<td>$6,750 for 6 courses in one year</td>
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<td>$11,250 for entire BSN completion degree program</td>
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<td>Up to $11,250 in potential tuition for General Education courses (transfer credit may be awarded for General Education courses)</td>
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<tr>
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<th>2013 Standard Tuition</th>
<th>2013 Blue Ridge Tuition - 5% MSN Scholarship</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MSN:</td>
<td>$485/credit hour*</td>
<td>$460/credit hour*</td>
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<td>$6,900 for 5 courses in one year (3 credit hours per course)</td>
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<td>$8,280 for 6 courses in one year</td>
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<td>$16,560 for entire MSN degree program (or less with transfer credits)</td>
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<tr>
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<th>2013 Standard Tuition</th>
<th>2013 Blue Ridge Tuition - 2.5% DNP Scholarship</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DNP Exec. &amp; Educ. Leadership:</td>
<td>$595/credit hour*</td>
<td>$580/credit hour</td>
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Non-Nursing Degree Programs:

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<th>2013 Standard Tuition</th>
<th>2013 Blue Ridge Tuition - 5% Scholarship</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor's:</td>
<td>$350/credit hour*</td>
<td>$333/credit hour*</td>
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<tr>
<td>MS Tech and</td>
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<tr>
<td>MS Business Intelligence:</td>
<td>$420/credit hour*</td>
<td>$400/credit hour*</td>
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<tr>
<td>MBA and</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master GIS:</td>
<td>$485/credit hour*</td>
<td>$460/credit hour*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certificate Program:</td>
<td>$485/credit hour*</td>
<td>$460/credit hour*</td>
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<tr>
<td>IPC Cert:</td>
<td>$485/credit hour*</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIS Cert:</td>
<td>$485/credit hour*</td>
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*Pricing is subject to change with 60-day notice; tuition increases typically occur on January 1.
3. Tuition Deferral Program
Participants must sign a promissory note with American Sentinel University. Tuition payment is due thirty (30) days after each course is completed. DNP Executive Leadership and DNP Educational Leadership programs are not included in the tuition deferment program. The $175 new student resource fee is not part of the deferment program and must be paid prior to enrollment. Books must also be purchased prior to each course start.

4. Orientation Program
American Sentinel requires all incoming Blue Ridge Community & Technical College students to complete an online orientation course.

5. American Sentinel Reporting to Blue Ridge Community & Technical College Management
To comply with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Department of Education's response to HIPAA, American Sentinel can provide student progress summary reporting to Blue Ridge Community & Technical College management if each employee/student completes a third party release form.

6. Student e-Portfolios
Each student will have a personal e-portfolio site to electronically store and track relevant professional and academic information and accomplishments. E-Portfolios can be used by students to:
- Create a plan of study
- Maintain a dynamic resume of their experiences in life, work, study, and at play
- Store examples of achievements (documents, photos, graphics, spreadsheets, web pages)
- Create media rich Guest Views to share with supervision, associates, faculty, family, friends and others
- Showcase accomplishments

7. Communication and Promotion
Blue Ridge Community & Technical College and American Sentinel will cooperate in the development and execution of a communication plan for its education programs. The communication plan will be customized to best suit the needs and regulations of Blue Ridge Community & Technical College and includes tactics such as:

- Meet with senior leadership to evaluate program and discuss emerging needs (semi-annually).
- Flyers or e-flyers (created by American Sentinel) distributed to staff members through appropriate channels.
- Initial email from senior leadership to nurse managers and staff announcing affiliation with American Sentinel. Also announce kick-off in manager meetings.
- Feature subject matter experts from Blue Ridge Community & Technical College in articles, online chats, or other communications created by American Sentinel.
- Articles published in Blue Ridge Community & Technical College newsletters (semi-annually or quarterly).*
- Share American Sentinel career articles, webinars, online chats with managers and staff, as appropriate.
- Link to American Sentinel website from Blue Ridge Community & Technical College employee Intranet or other web portal.
- Annual site-visit to Blue Ridge Community & Technical College. (In-person meet-and-greet; display table; offer materials and information to employees).
- Distribute posters or other materials (provided by American Sentinel) throughout facility.
- Other elements as appropriate.

*Newsletter articles will highlight American Sentinel news, events, programs, services, Blue Ridge Community & Technical College employees and graduates (successful students); or career- and industry-related issues. American Sentinel will develop content.
If this relationship terminates for any reason, American Sentinel will maintain special tuition rates for all of Blue Ridge Community & Technical College employees and graduates who are students in good standing at time of termination. Thirty day tuition deferment, per item number three above, will cease at time of termination. Students are responsible for paying their tuition and fees.

**DEGREE PROGRAM DETAILS**

**Bachelor of Science Nursing Degree Completion Program (RN to BSN)**

- RN license required
- ADN/ASN gives you 60 transfer credits into our BSN program
- RN to BSN curriculum developed using the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) Guidelines (sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

The American Sentinel online RN to BSN program is a BSN degree completion program that was developed using the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) Guidelines sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The curriculum is taught in eight-week, three-credit-hour courses that have specific weekly topics, objectives and assignments that are designed to immediately apply learning to the work environment. Each class has a project assignment that is intended to assist the nurse in using theory and research in meeting day to day challenges in risk management, communication, and the use of evidence-based practice. The Capstone Project class is designed so that the student works one-on-one with the faculty members to design a practice-based research / quality / safety improvement project or a design a change project. The BSN program does not have traditional clinical experiences, as the students are already practicing registered nurses. They complete the work entirely online, selecting their own time for participation.

The American Sentinel faculty members (more than 80% of whom hold doctorate degrees) are all experienced online educators with advanced degrees as well as contemporary working experience in their areas. Faculty work full or part time in the practice environment and teach full or part-time. Those who do teach full time all have varied and rich work experience, so they are able to bring contemporary thinking and resources to the online classroom.

**Master of Science Nursing Degree Program (MSN)**

Complete MSN in 2 years or less.
36 credit hours (12 eight-week courses)
5 MSN specializations:

- Management and Organizational Leadership
- Case Management
- Nursing Informatics
- Education
- Infection Prevention and Control

**Accelerated Master of Science Nursing Degree Program (RN to MSN)**

Accelerated, advanced degree and specialization for roles in leadership, increased responsibility and care management. (Does not include a bachelor’s degree.) 57 credit hours (19 courses).
**Doctor of Nursing Practice Executive Leadership Degree Program (DNP)**

The Doctor of Nursing Practice in Executive Leadership is a program specifically designed to foster the advanced practice of nursing leadership within a complex, highly computerized health system. The DNP Executive Leadership program requires a minimum of three years full-time work experience in a nursing executive or a management leadership role within the last 5 years. The program combines a two week residency at the beginning of years one and two with online classes. The ten day immersion experience allows the students to build teamwork within their cohort and to have access to various faculty members to support the development of their Capstone research project. Classes at American Sentinel are three-credit, eight week courses offered online. The degree is 42 credits, in alignment with other regionally accredited DNP programs.

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<td>Lead complex organizations through strategic decision making and change implementation. Assume roles as leaders and collaborators with other professionals and communities in evaluating, planning, providing, and evaluating healthcare. Create new models to explain, predict, and improve the performance of organizations.</td>
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<td>Scholarship</td>
<td>Enhance professional nursing practice through the generation of research and evidence based practice. Utilize health information technology to analyze meaningful data which informs leadership. Utilize theoretical knowledge, meaningful data and best practice research to create strategic plans for organizational change. Collaborate in research activities and utilize knowledge gained from research to create improved models of care and organizational performance.</td>
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<td>Accountability</td>
<td>Lead other nursing professionals in the acceptance of accountability and responsibility for one's own professional judgment and actions.</td>
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<td>Citizenship</td>
<td>Create new models for nursing in a global society. Participate in the development of health policy which ensures stewardship of natural and man-made resources, social justice, and a participatory partnership with consumers in maintaining health.</td>
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The DNP degree can be completed in two years over three semesters per year. Tuition for the first semester will cost $5,220 (9 credit hours x $580 per credit hour). A $2,500 deposit secures a spot in the class; the remaining $2,720 is due at least ten days before the semester begins. Tuition for the next two semesters will cost $3,480 (6 credit hours x $580 per credit hour), due 10 days before the semester begins. The cost for the entire program is $24,360. Students must purchase their textbooks from an outside source. An estimated cost for textbooks and other learning materials required for the program is $2,500. Travel and lodging expenses for the two residencies are the responsibility of the student.
Doctor of Nursing Practice Educational Leadership Degree Program (DNP)
The Doctor of Nursing Practice in Educational Leadership is a program specifically designed to foster the advanced practice of nursing leadership within a nursing educational system or hospital setting. The target audience is nursing deans, directors and faculty with at least two years of full-time work experience in a leadership or faculty role in nursing education at a 2-4 year college/university, hospital or health care organization within the past 5 years. The program combines a two week residency at the beginning of years one and two with online classes. The ten day immersion experience allows the students to build teamwork within their cohort and to have access to various faculty members to support the development of their Capstone research project. Classes at American Sentinel are three-credit, eight-week courses offered online. The degree is 42 credits, in alignment with other regionally accredited DNP programs.

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The Commission of the Distance Education and Training Council has approved American Sentinel to offer a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.