



Heritage Status

## LETTER OF INTENT

### **St. Bede's College, Shimla / JM Educational Institutions, India and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania/State System of Higher Education (USA)**

#### **Higher Education Academic Partnerships**

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania ("Commonwealth") is the only U.S. state to have established a unique, government-endorsed India Higher Education Initiative, also known as the Pennsylvania Global and Education HUB or "Penn HUB." Its purpose is to create stronger connections between universities and colleges in India and the Commonwealth in order to foster diverse educational exchanges and to provide opportunities for more Indian students to study at one of the Commonwealth's Institutions of Higher Education.

**St. Bede's College**, established in 1904, is a historical and premier educational landmark of Northern India, in the state of Himachal Pradesh. The college is run by the Congregation of the Religious of Jesus and Mary, founded by St. Claudine Thevent in 1818 in Lyon, France. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, when education for women in India was still groping in the dark, the Sister's of Jesus and Mary had the vision, faith and courage to start St. Bede's College in 1904, becoming the pioneers of women's education in India. St. Bede's is made up of a mosaic of students who come from different religious backgrounds and levels of society. Thus, promoting inclusivity in the field of education. The vision of the college is to form well integrated individuals who are assets to contemporary society. The academic expanse of the college covers UG and PG in Humanities, Science and Commerce. The college also leads in imparting training teachers under Teachers Education programme. We take pride in our Alumni who are serving at high positions in India and abroad. The college is recognized by the University Grants Commission under 2(f) and 12(b) and is the only college in Himachal Pradesh to be accredited with an 'A +'Grade by UGC-NAAC.

## **Aim and Scope of the Higher Education Academic Partnership**

This Letter of Intent will be the starting point of a “purely academic partnership” to be established between St. Bede’s College and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s institutions of higher education through the coordination and collaboration of PennHUB. The PennHUB is a joint activity of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania/Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) and a consortium of independent private institutions—some non-sectarian and others with religious affiliations—as well as public community colleges.

The aim of the partnership is to create a means to exchange academic and research information, to provide opportunities to experience international cooperation, to raise awareness and adoption of alternative, multi-faceted approaches to learning, and to enhance the understanding and acceptance of different cultures and perspectives.

The parties agree to define the objectives and structure of the academic partnership as including, but not limited to,

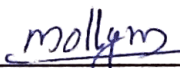
- Strategic alliances and partnerships between St. Bede’s and specific, individual Pennsylvania colleges and universities;
- Provision of information about colleges and universities in Pennsylvania;
- Student counseling and advising;
- Faculty and student exchanges;
- Joint research activities and programs;
- Exchange of academic materials and other relevant information;
- Facilitation of the admission of qualified students from one institution/university to the other for the purpose of enrolling in undergraduate or graduate programs;
- Professional development for teachers and administrators
- Collaborations targeted for the disciplines of Biotechnology, Commerce & Management, Computer Science, History, Psychology, and Zoology.


No costs are incurred by either party in signing this Letter of Intent. Any costs and deliverables will be program-dependent and mutually agreed to upon program development by the higher education institutions/academies carrying out the specific collaborative project. To the extent

feasible, India and PA host organizations are expected to provide accommodations, meals, and in-country transportation for visiting faculty, staff, and program directors.

By signing this Letter of Intent, the signatories will actively support and promote such Higher Education Academic Partnerships that serve their mutual interests. The partnership shall begin upon signing, is open-ended, and can be terminated at will by either party.

**St. Bede's College:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sr. Prof. Molly Abraham  
Principal  
Principal  
St. Bede's College  
Shimla - 2  
Date 11-04-2022



**Commonwealth of Pennsylvania / State  
System for Higher Education (PASSHE):**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Peter H. Garland, Executive Vice  
Chancellor Emeritus

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date 12-04-2022