



Memorandum of Understanding
Between
Carnegie Mellon University
Metro21 Initiative
and
The County of Allegheny



This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets forth the understandings between the named parties to pursue their mutual interest to research, develop, deploy and evaluate technology and analytically based solutions to the problems facing the systems and infrastructure that serve the quality of life and economy of Allegheny County and other communities, cities, counties and metropolises around the globe.

Background

Allegheny County (“the County”), like other urban counties around the country, faces complex challenges involving interacting infrastructure systems such as transportation, water and sewer, communications, buildings and public services. Carnegie Mellon University (“CMU” or “the University”) has established the Metro21 Initiative to connect problems in the community to research and educational projects that might help solve them. The County, through its Chief Executive, seeks to have the County be an incubator for innovation to achieve more effective and efficient government and improve the lives of County residents. Both parties wish to showcase the County as a vibrant, innovative and sustainable community while developing technologies, methods, and models for use across the country and around the world. Both parties also wish to create a pathway for students to remain in and contribute to the Pittsburgh region after graduation.

Purpose

The primary purpose of this MOU is to ensure the communication and coordination necessary to implement research and educational projects agreed upon by the parties. This MOU does not represent a commitment on behalf of either party to pursue specific projects or partnerships. Future projects may require subsequent agreements between the parties and may be subject to County Council approval.

Process

This primary purpose will be accomplished through the following process:

1. The County’s Chief Executive and the Provost of the University shall both designate a lead person on behalf of each party.
2. The County’s Chief Executive and his lead will identify problems that University research and/or educational projects might address.
3. The University and its lead will identify research and/or educational projects that might help address County problems.

4. The leads of both parties will meet on a regular basis to discuss the potential projects identified by the County's Chief Executive and/or the University with the primary goals of:
 - a. Reaching agreement on which projects to pursue;
 - b. Concurring on a plan for implementation for each agreed upon project;
 - c. Monitoring progress and prospects for each project; and
 - d. Coordinating mutual support for fundraising from third parties in support of agreed upon projects.

A secondary purpose of this MOU is to mutually pursue partnerships with other parties to expand knowledge and pursue research, development and deployment projects with multiple communities.


Funding

This MOU is not a commitment of funds to either party on behalf of the other party. When funding is needed by either party to pursue an agreed upon project, then the expectation is that the funding may be pursued by one party with the endorsement and support of the other.

Duration

This MOU is terminable at-will by either party. This MOU may be modified from time-to-time by mutual consent of authorized officials from CMU or from the County Manager. This MOU shall become effective upon signature by the County Manager and the Vice President for Research of CMU.

 Date:
William D. McKain, Allegheny County Manager

 Date:
Dr. Farnam Jahanian
Provost, Carnegie Mellon University