

Substantive Change Application Form

Contractual Relationship with a Non-Accredited Organization

Directions: This application should be submitted *at least* 45 days prior to the anticipated start date of the change. Applications must be complete and the required fees received in order to be scheduled for review.

Email completed application to substantivechange@accjc.org. Fees must be submitted to ACCJC, 10 Commercial Blvd, Suite 204, Novato, CA 94949

Date of Inquiry: January 5, 2021 **Anticipated Start Date:** August 23, 2021

Institution Name: College of the Siskiyous

Address: 800 College Ave.

City: Weed

State: CA

Zip: 96094

ALO Name: Char Perlas

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Title of Application and Description of Proposal:

TITLE: Instructional Service Agreement (ISA) between Siskiyou Joint Community College District and Verto Education Inc.

Description: College of the Siskiyous is entering into an agreement with Verto Education to provide instructional and other services for first-year study abroad learning opportunities.

Standard I: Mission, Academic Quality, and Institutional Effectiveness and Integrity

Briefly describe the planning process that identified and led to the contractual relationship:

In Summer 2020, discussions with Verto Education were initiated by a former faculty member. As discussions progressed between the two CEOs of Verto Education and College of the Siskiyous, the feasibility of an ISA was realized. Both organizations met in early Fall, and the College divided development efforts and discussion into two major areas, each with a team:

1. Identification of a curriculum crosswalk between Verto Education's existing courses [currently offered through one of two regionally accredited institutions of higher education - Portland State University (OR), and Richard Bland College of William and Mary (VA)] and existing College of the Siskiyous curriculum - or the identification of new curriculum required to offer through the ISA (team led by Dr. Char Perlas, Vice President of Academic Affairs), and
2. Logistical factors to ensure locus of control by the College for Siskiyous students and instruction (team led by Meghan Witherell, Registrar and Financial Aid Director).

Determination of the appropriateness of usage of an ISA in this situation was addressed by Samantha Worthington. Two defining characteristics for ISAs were identified:

1. Claiming FTES/apportionment
2. Shared operating/instruction costs

Describe how the program is consistent with the mission and goals of the institution:

The partnership with Verto Education broadens the College's reach to potential students, who can begin their academic career with the College while participating in Verto Education's programs of study. Siskiyous students will be in classes with students already admitted to universities like University of Oregon, William and Mary, University of Vermont, Bucknell, James Madison, University of Auckland (Australia), etc. There will be many advantages for these Siskiyous students to then continue their education with College of the Siskiyous before transferring to a 4-year university; for example, by completing an Associates Degree for Transfer (ADT) at Siskiyous, these students will be able to transfer to a UC or CSU.

This partnership is in direct alignment with the College's mission to: *'...seek to inspire students by offering inclusive and practical learning experiences that are relevant in today's global economy and environment.'* It also directly affects the College's vision to *'Transforming students' lives through lifelong learning and success.'* The partnership also serves to assist the College in reaching its Institutional Goals which are aligned with the Vision for Success Goals. For more information on the College's mission, vision and goals, visit:

<http://www.siskiyous.edu/president/documents/mission.pdf>

What is the expected impact of this program? What benefits will result from this relationship?

Below is a summary of the benefits regarding the District's consideration of entering into an ISA with Verto Education:

- Verto provides students with affordable study abroad programs each consisting of, on average, 16 credit hours of general education courses which would be approved Siskiyous credit classes.
- Verto already has a partner college consortium of 50 accredited universities and colleges from around the U.S. and the world to accept all Siskiyous courses for immediate transfer.
- Verto has intentionally limited the number of "schools of record" students can utilize for course enrollment – Portland State University (PSU) and Richard Bland College of William & Mary (RBC) – making Siskiyous only the third "school of record" in the U.S.
- California is the state with the most interested students inquiring about participating in Verto Education's study abroad programs, but attending through PSU or RBC prevents California residents from utilizing state-based financial aid.
- Students interested in starting their education in California through Verto Education would enroll in Siskiyous courses, and then could attend Siskiyous as a second semester freshman or a first semester sophomore to earn an ADT for in-state transfer.
- Currently, Siskiyous has 6 existing courses which complete 2 of Verto's study abroad programs: Madrid and Hawaii. The goal is to eventually have all courses approved at Siskiyous for all of Verto's programs.
- There are no budget obligations required for entering into an ISA with Verto and the positive budgetary impact potential is significant. Each Siskiyous student participating in a

Verto Education program of study will be enrolled in, on average, 16 credits of Siskiyou courses, generating approximately 0.5 FTES per student per semester.

Standard II: Student Learning Programs and Support Services

Program Requirements (program information which will be added to catalog):

Verto Education was founded in 2017. Verto Education's mission is to "help students discover themselves and the world around them by making education abroad a foundational and accessible part of a four-year college education." Verto Education offers accredited first-year education by partnering with colleges to get full class credits to graduate in four years and incorporate travel in that educational experience, enabling students to identify purpose and direction for themselves in an affordable and achievable manner. Verto Education believes "that through these transformative experiences, students become impactful leaders and global citizens." Students interested in taking College of the Siskiyou courses in a Verto study abroad program should contact Verto Education inc. at (917) 257-8918 or email at ADMISSIONS@VERTOEDUCATION.ORG. For more information, visit: <https://vertoeducation.org/>

Program Learning Outcomes:

1. Compose and revise source-based essays using a variety of rhetorical strategies appropriate for an academic audience.
2. Analyze literary works of the period in their historical, philosophical, social, political, regional, and/or aesthetic contexts.
3. Explain the scientific research process, recognize and be able to make cross-cultural comparisons of cultural systems

Describe the impact of this program and the contractual relationship on the programs, services, and activities which will support students. How will students' learning and support services be conducted?

Students interested in a Verto Study Abroad program will apply directly to Verto. Verto provides all student support including, outreach, recruitment, onboarding, orientation, admissions, financial aid, tutoring, mentoring and counseling. Furthermore, Verto has a comprehensive risk management plan that allows Verto to address individual student considerations such as medical conditions, mental health needs, and food preferences.

Describe how the college will ensure the academic quality and improvement of the courses and program being offered by the non-accredited organization.

This ISA complies with California Education Code and Title 5 requirements as outlined in the CCCC's ISA requirements:

1. College's curriculum - assurance of quality and rigor. Courses used by Verto Education are existing College of the Siskiyou credit courses previously approved through the local curriculum process as well as CCCC approved and recorded in COCI.
2. Demonstration of control and direction – All courses used by Verto Education will include College outlines, materials, testing and grading procedures, etc. within the scope of instructors' academic freedom.
3. District permissions - as none of these courses will be conducted in a California community college district, there are no permission to obtain.
4. Instructor requirements - all instructors, as with other College ISAs, will meet minimum qualifications requirements, and will participate in instructor evaluations that meet the College's requirements.

Description of any legal or compliance requirements regarding this change.
Either party may terminate the ISA agreement upon no less than 90 calendar days' notice to the other party, provided that in the event of termination by either party, each party shall be obligated to carry out its obligations described in the agreement applicable to all students who were accepted to the Verto program prior to the effective date of termination. Termination of the agreement shall not adversely impact students who have been accepted to the Verto program prior to the effective date of termination.

Standard III: Resources

Human Resources:
If applicable, please describe the staffing plan to support this change:
Verto agrees that its employees who serve as instructors under this Agreement are employees of Verto, and shall be deemed employees of College of the Siskiyous for the sole purposes of, and in accordance with, section 58058(b) of Title 5. Verto agrees that its employees who serve as instructors under this Agreement shall receive no compensation or benefits from College of the Siskiyous and may be terminated from their role as instructors by College of the Siskiyous at any time and for any reason whatsoever and without cause.
Financial Resources:
Please describe any impact on institutional resources (including physical, technology and equipment, if appropriate).
There are no impacts on institutional resources related to this ISA agreement.

Standard IV: Leadership and Governance

What leadership and governance oversight exists to ensure the continued academic quality and institutional effectiveness is maintained and sustained?
As with other ISAs, this partnership will be assessed via the Program Review Process. Through the Institutional Planning and Budget Committee (co-chaired by the Academic Senate President and the VP of Academic Services), PLOs will be assessed and analyzed and budgetary impacts will be presented.

Evidence

Please include documentation that will help the Committee understand the process by which the change was developed, such as former and proposed mission and/or objectives, summary of discussions with campus constituents (Board of Trustees, Academic Senate, students, community members), curriculum committee minutes, strategic plans, financial plans, copies of Board minutes, as appropriate, draft copies of legal documents dealing with matters of facilities and other institutional property, as appropriate. Please include any state and/or federal approvals, as appropriate.

Attached:

[Dec. 21, 2020 Board Report # 5545](#)

VERTO ISA Agreement