

FAMU's Proposed Collaboration/Partnership With FSU Health/TMH Academic Health Center

I. Guiding Principles

- a. **Recognition in Partnership:** Affirm Florida A&M University (FAMU) as a core and strategic partner in shaping the academic, clinical, and workforce development mission of the Academic Health Center.
- b. **Community Advancement:** Strengthen access to high-quality care, professional readiness, and improved health outcomes for Tallahassee and the surrounding communities.
- c. **Mutual Value Creation:** Build collaborative agreements that deliver measurable benefits for FAMU students, faculty, and research programs.
- d. **Institutional Independence:** Preserve FAMU's authority to pursue and lead independent grants, partnerships, and programmatic growth aligned with its mission.

II. Structural Recommendations

a. Governance & Representation

- i. Secure a formal governing role for FAMU through representation on:
 1. Governing Board(s) (three seats)
 2. Advisory Board(s)
 3. Steering Committee(s)
 4. Strategic Planning Committee(s)
- ii. Ensure FAMU's inclusion in all regional Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNAs).
- iii. Require annual reporting that highlights FAMU's distinct contributions—student placements, faculty engagement, research activity, and measurable outcomes across education, clinical practice, and research.

b. Academic & Clinical Collaboration

- i. Guarantee dedicated clinical training placements for students in FAMU's Nursing, Pharmacy, and Allied Health Sciences programs.
- ii. Expand clinical and experiential learning opportunities in rural and underserved communities.
- iii. Integrate FAMU students alongside FSU and TSC cohorts in joint clinical and educational programs.
- iv. Recognize FAMU as a formal pipeline partner in regional and statewide workforce development initiatives.
- v. Establish shared faculty appointments and collaborative research opportunities.
- vi. Safeguard the continued growth of FAMU's distinct health sciences programs while promoting future affiliation opportunities.
- vii. Include FAMU as a named co-lead and beneficiary in joint funding proposals (e.g., NIH, HRSA, CDC, and philanthropic initiatives).

c. Research & Innovation

- i. Embed FAMU representation in Academic Program and Clinical Research Committees.
- ii. Maintain FAMU's ability to serve as lead or co-lead on major research grants utilizing shared facilities and infrastructure.
- iii. Develop joint Centers of Excellence reflecting FAMU's research strengths—telehealth, rehabilitation sciences, rural health, and population wellness.
- iv. Formalize mutual access to de-identified data resources for collaborative research.

d. Financial & Resource Agreements

- i. Clinical Service Contracts: Establish agreements enabling FAMU faculty and students to provide specialized services (e.g., rehabilitation, pharmacy, nursing), generating shared revenue streams.
- ii. Branding & Visibility: Ensure FAMU's brand and identity are prominently displayed across clinical, academic, and research facilities.
- iii. Scholarship & Pipeline Funding: Dedicate a defined portion of funding or philanthropic support to FAMU student scholarships, faculty development, and program advancement.
- iv. Land Lease Agreement: Explore opportunities for FAMU to lease designated space within the Academic Health Center's real estate footprint (locations TBD).

e. Community & Workforce Commitments

- i. Co-design and implement joint community outreach programs—including mobile health units, preventive screenings, and rural health initiatives—jointly branded with FAMU.
- ii. Launch a workforce pipeline program prioritizing FAMU graduates for employment within FSU Health, TMH, and affiliated healthcare systems.
- iii. Develop continuing education and professional certification programs led by FAMU faculty to enhance regional healthcare capacity and generate new revenue.
- iv. Establish FAMU's exclusive right to operate a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) within the partnership framework.

f. Safeguards and Accountability

- i. Exempt FAMU from exclusivity clauses that could restrict partnerships with other institutions.
- ii. Include a Five-Year Review Clause requiring joint evaluation and renewal of partnership terms.
- iii. Require annual reporting on FAMU's student placements, graduate employment, research contributions, and community impact.
- iv. Establish clear protections to preserve FAMU's training and research access in the event of institutional disputes.

III. Conclusion

This strategy fully integrates FAMU into the leadership, academic, and operational framework of the Academic Health Center.

Through this partnership:

- FAMU students gain consistent access to advanced training and career pathways.
- The University is recognized as a primary contributor to the region's healthcare workforce.
- Research collaborations align with FAMU's mission and foster innovation.
- The partnership strengthens the overall health ecosystem of Tallahassee and beyond.

This framework ensures that FAMU's voice, presence, and impact remain central to shaping the future of health education, research, and service for our region.