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**Camden City School District and Rutgers University in Camden Sign  
Memorandum of Understanding**

Camden, N.J. – Camden City School District (CCSD) and Rutgers University in Camden signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at Dudley Family School. The collaboration between both parties will enhance not only the experiences and outcomes of students and their families but also provide professional development and leadership opportunities to administrators and teachers across the district.

“We’re grateful to be here today celebrating the continued partnership between the district and Rutgers University in Camden, ” said Camden City School District Superintendent Katrina T. McCombs. “This collaboration reflects one of our district’s top priorities: accelerating student achievement. This partnership will fulfill our promise to prepare all students to be college and career ready by raising the academic and social-emotional learning bar they deserve.”

RUC and CCSD agree on the following partnership goals:

- Develop collaborative initiatives that help to achieve better outcomes for youth and families in the city of Camden;
- Engage the critical resources of the university to create academically enriching and rigorous programming for students in grades K–12;
- Create educational pathways to increase the number of underrepresented students in the city of Camden who apply, enroll, and successfully complete post-secondary education; and
- Develop opportunities for professional development and leadership development for school teachers, support staff, and administrators.

“This agreement reaffirms Rutgers University in Camden’s longstanding and deep commitment to service and engagement with the City of Camden,” said Rutgers–Camden Chancellor Antonio D. Tillis. “We are gathered here today to usher in a new era of collaboration for the betterment of students, their families, teachers, and support staff. This partnership reflects Rutgers–Camden’s commitment to working with our community partners to create solutions that will transform Camden and its residents.”

CCSD and Rutgers–Camden have collaborated on a variety of initiatives and agree to continue those active collaborations listed below:

- Hill Family Center for College Access
- IGNITE Afterschool Program
- Rutgers Future Scholars
- Engaged Civic Learning (ECL)
- Rutgers-Camden Center for the Arts
- Community Legal Programs

The Camden City School District (CCSD) and Rutgers University–Camden agree to address the following six priorities:

- Professional development for CCSD staff regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) issues:
  - DEI workshops and training provided by Rutgers–Camden Faculty or Staff for CCSD Staff,
- Increase opportunities and connections for Rutgers–Camden students to volunteer and intern in the CCSD.
  - Placement of Rutgers–Camden students for volunteerism at CCSD schools/sites and internship opportunities.
- Expansion of arts education opportunities for CCSD schools:
  - Increase opportunities for arts education to be expanded during the school day in partnership with school leaders and teachers,
  - Increase professional development and training for teachers and school staff.
- Expansion of Rutgers–Camden engaged civic learning (ECL) courses partnering with CCSD schools:
  - Expanding the number of engaged civic learning courses taught in school during the school day, in partnership with teachers,
  - Training teachers and staff on service-learning pedagogical approaches.
- Development of the Summer Bridge Program for rising 9th-grade students across the district. This program would support incoming 9th-grade students as they make the transition from middle to high school. Rutgers–Camden would support the development and implementation of the program with campus resources, including the following:
  - Joint professional development and training on best practices in STEAM, social-emotional learning, and youth development approaches,
  - College Access and Pre-College Workshops,
  - Campus tours and visits for CCSD Summer Bridge students to Rutgers-Camden,
  - Expansion of community legal program offerings to CCSD students and families.

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