Agreement of Cooperation/Collaboration between
Mountain States Group and Boise State University
Fall 2011

Boise State University (BSU) and Mountain States Group (MSG) desire to further a mutually beneficial partnership.

BSU and MSG share common interests and a commitment to assisting refugees rebuild successful lives in Southwestern Idaho, educating our students and our community toward these efforts, and making the resources of BSU fully accessible to refugees in Idaho.

BSU and MSG agree that cooperative activities under this MOA may consist of (but are not limited to) the following:

1. Expand service-learning and other opportunities for BSU students to work with refugee populations.
2. Continue to utilize community work-study funds to allow MSG to hire BSU students who can advance refugee-centered initiatives.
3. Continue to jointly sponsor an annual conference on refugee issues that addresses the needs and interest of BSU faculty and students, refugees, governmental agencies, school districts, health care organizations, social service agencies, employment programs, and others.
4. Explore collaborative research projects regarding refugee issues using mutually developed protocol for considering potential research studies; pursue grants that might be available for such research.
5. Explore opportunities to increase public awareness about refugee issues and the refugee community through publications, media, events and other joint activities.
6. Support existing and potential certificate programs and other academic offerings in refugee services and refugee studies.
7. Explore joint ventures that provide a venue for refugees to share their cultures with BSU students and faculty as well as other Treasure Valley residents.
8. Convene a team of BSU and MSG individuals that will meet quarterly to pursue the above initiatives. This group will serve as the nexus for discussing research, seminars, symposia and other similar activities that explore issues surrounding refugee resettlement: acculturation, language acquisition, economic self-sufficiency, access to higher education, child and adult education, health and mental health well-being, and integration.
9. Advance the vision that MSG and BSU together can become an important resource for addressing refugee resettlement issues, serving Idaho and beyond.

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Martin Schimpf                                Date                                Chris Tilden                          Date
Provost and Vice President for
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