

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ANA G. MENDEZ UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

PORTUGAL DECLARATION

The tendencies, trends and challenges posed by the modern world indicate that it is necessary to transcend the barriers imposed by the various cultures, religions, economies, and philosophies.

The ideal way for the human being to comprehend his condition and accept his situation in a world full of dramatic changes is through an education centered on universal profiles. We evidently live in a new world that forces us to synchronize the local and the universal, to achieve mutual and reciprocal enrichment.

The AGMUS Board of Directors is convinced that we are at the right place and the right time to carry out a leading role in the effort required to internationalize the educational process. Its philosophy that every institution, in order to maintain its vitality and usefulness within the society, must be willing to reorganize to face change and adopt the necessary changes, make it an institution at the apex of community service. This philosophy drives the System to maintain a proactive vision and agile performance, which allow it to face the precepts and demands of challenges with innovative solutions.

Already within the Vision 2005 project, the System had forged the idea of developing internationalization of education as a means of achieving an integrated understanding and development of the human being.

The internationalization of education will foster exchange and the knowledge of the human being in all its dimensions. Exchange will teach us to be more tolerant. The greater the tolerance, the lesser the conflict. The lesser the conflict, the greater the security. And the greater the security, the greater the general well-being and happiness of the human being throughout the world.

To the effect of allowing the System to continue its effort toward becoming a humanistic, cultural and technological bridge to contribute to the greater integration of Puerto Rico into the various nations of the world, the Board of Directors formulates the following declaration of purpose, jointly with its functional protocol, to serve as a guide, lending direction and support to the university's administrative component.

DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

The Board of Directors recognizes that for the 21st century an educational perspective with international character is fundamental to the academic, research, and service process.

The design and implementation of the System's educational policy shall always have as its basis the historical situation of Puerto Rico. This educational policy, aside from arising from dreams, desires, and principles, must take into account the realities and various interests that set us apart as a people.

The educational policy must be directed to exposing the student to new cultures and ideas. Through this policy, the student shall broaden his vision of the importance of universal culture, better understand its mission as a factor in production, with the capacity to transcend national borders and perfect its function as a promoter of goodwill throughout the world.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- The concept and practical aspects of the implementation of the International Academic Project for Human Development, or Internationalization Project, are hereby incorporated and shall be part of the Integral Development Plan for the Ana G. Méndez University System.
- The Strategic Plan, aside from the factors that traditionally make up this type of document, shall take into account: the tendencies and movements that are currently molding the lives of people, as well as the force of change that are readily identifiable, such as globalization, technology, and competitiveness.
- The Internationalization Project, together with teaching and research, shall place its emphasis on the development of service programs to impact the student body, faculty and community.
- The university's administration shall develop the Internationalization Project in stages, each one based on a cost estimate, pertinent projections, as well as methods and sources of financing.
- The university administration shall prepare an inventory of internal resources that may contribute to the Internationalization Project.

- The university administration shall emphasize in its proposals the logic of Puerto Rico as an ideal place to expand internationalization of education.
- The Integral Development Plan and the Internationalization Project shall be presented to the Board of Directors for consideration and approval.

Given in Lisbon, Portugal, this 13th day of October 2002.

(signed)

Antonio J. de Haro
Chair
Board of Directors

gcg