

**RESOLUTION 23-73**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SPRING HILL, TENNESSEE TO APPROVE A MEMOANDIUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN SPRING HILL FIRE DEPARTMENT AND COLUMBIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Spring Hill operates a career fire department; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fire Department Administration desires to increase the knowledge, skills, and abilities of its staff through professional development and higher education learning to promote excellence in the fire and emergency service profession; and

**WHEREAS**, the demand for an undergraduate and graduate degrees for officer level promotions is an industry standard supported by the US Fire Administration through the Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education Initiative; and

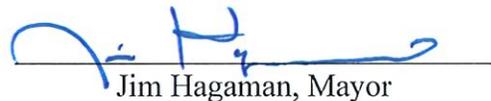
**WHEREAS**, the City of Spring Hill has an opportunity to build a Learning Partner relationship with Columbia Southern University, an accredited distance learning university.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Spring Hill, Tennessee to authorize a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Spring Hill and Columbia Southern University for the ongoing partnership with Spring Hill Fire Department.

**Passed and adopted by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Spring Hill, Tennessee, this 1st Day of May, 2023.**

ATTEST:

  
April Goad, City Recorder

  
Jim Hagaman, Mayor

LEGAL FORM APPROVED:

  
Patrick Carter, City Attorney



**REQUEST:**        *Approval of Resolution 23-73*  
**SUBMITTED BY:** Graig Temple, Fire Chief  
**DATE:**            May 1, 2023  
**RE:**                MOU with Columbia Southern University

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**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this resolution is to establish a non-exclusive Memorandum of Understanding with Columbia Southern University to take advantage of educational savings for Fire Department Staff attending college at CSU.

**BACKGROUND:**

Columbia Southern University is an accredited online university that specializes in undergraduate and graduate level education that is geared towards military and first responders. Courses in Occupational Safety and Health, Fire Science, Fire Administration and Fire Executive Leadership, as well as Homeland Security, Business and Emergency Management highlight some of their most popular courses.

The Learning Partner Agreement will provide a 10% reduction in tuition for Staff and waive application fees. Additionally, four times a year staff can apply for a Learning Partner Scholarship.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

N/A

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of Resolution 23-73 to:

- Authorize the establishment of an MOU between the Spring Hill Fire Department and Columbia Southern University to initiate a Learning Partnership between the entities.



**COLUMBIA  
SOUTHERN**  
UNIVERSITY

# Learning Partnership

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **How does a Learning Partnership work?**

CSU Learning Partners sign a non-binding agreement that allows our institution to offer a 10% tuition discount on all online classes to your employees/members along with an application fee waiver (\$25 value). Textbooks are provided at no cost.

### **Can my family receive the Learning Partner Discount?**

Spouses and children of employees/members are also eligible to take advantage of these benefits.

### **What is the cost?**

There is no cost to become a learning partner.

### **How many employees have to enroll if we become a Learning Partner?**

There is no specific number of employees that have to enroll.

### **When will my Partnership begin?**

The partnership will begin upon receipt of the signed MOU and completed questionnaire.

### **Can the non-binding Learning Partnership agreement be changed to fit my guidelines?**

Yes, we can adapt the agreement to fit your guidelines and policies. We do ask permission to place your business/organization name and logo (if provided) on our website.

### **How long does the Learning Partnership last?**

The Learning Partnership remains active indefinitely or until either party chooses to discontinue the relationship.

### **By becoming a Learning Partner, are we agreeing that our employees/members will only use CSU?**

No, the partnership agreement is non-exclusive. It simply means that if any of your employees/members choose to become a student with our institution, they will receive the benefits included in the partnership agreement.

### **Are there scholarship opportunities for CSU Learning Partners?**

Yes! CSU offers a Learning Partner scholarship four times a year.

The Learning Partner scholarship will be applied directly to the recipient's tuition for up to 60 credit hours, three years, or until the completion of the selected online degree program, whichever comes first.

### **What is CareerQuest?**

Career Quest is a web-based employment management system powered by the NACELink Network. This is an outstanding source available to you that will assist in your search for highly-qualified college students and graduates for internships, part-time, and full-time career opportunities. Through CareerQuest you may also share career opportunities with CSU students and alumni.



# Memorandum of Understanding

(This MOU is not a legally binding contract and may be canceled at any time without penalty or recourse)

## About the Institution:

Columbia Southern University (CSU), is an online university accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

## Spring Hill Fire Department

wishes to offer educational opportunities to its employees/members by becoming a Columbia Southern University (CSU) Learning Partner. This partnership is designed to assist Learning Partner employees/members in achieving their educational goals in career appropriate disciplines.

### A. Learning Partner benefits include:

- » 10% tuition discount on all classes and waiver of the Application Fee. This benefit extends to spouses and children of the Learning Partner employee/member.
- » Textbooks provided at no cost.
- » Exclusive scholarship opportunities for Learning Partner employees/members.
- » A complimentary evaluation of previously earned educational credits and training/professional certifications for consideration of transfer credit.
- » Complimentary access to our Writing and Math specialists through the Student Success Center.
- » A dedicated landing page for Learning Partners on the CSU website for prospective students and student enrollments.

### B. Learning Partner benefits may also include:

- » Designation of the Learning Partner name on the CSU website and University marketing materials.
- » Display of the Learning Partner's logo (if provided) on the CSU website and University marketing materials.
- » Feature articles of the Learning Partner through press releases and marketing campaigns.
- » Complimentary access to CSU Career Quest to advertise employment and internship opportunities.
- » Scheduled visits or presentations to promote the Learning Partnership benefits to Learning Partner employees/ members.
- » Discounts on Continuing Education training and learning opportunities.

### C. As a Learning Partner, the organization will:

- » Agree to inform all employees/members of the Learning Partner relationship and benefits as one of their options for education.
- » Keep CSU informational materials on site and make them available to employees/members.
- » Assign a liaison within the Learning Partner who is willing to accept and distribute communications from the CSU liaison and/or a CSU representative.
- » Provide information to the CSU liaison regarding Employee Benefits Fairs and Education Fairs once date and time have been established.
- » Agree to be contacted via email by a representative of Columbia Southern University and/or Columbia Southern Education Group.

OK

Any use of CSU logos or descriptions for display on company websites, advertising, or used for any marketing purposes MUST be submitted to CSU for approval prior to publication or display

This Learning Partnership will take effect from the date of signing and will remain in effect unless terminated by one or both parties.

This Memorandum is agreed to and executed on this 1st day of May in the year 2023.

#### LEARNING PARTNER

PARTNER SIGNATURE

Jim Hagaman  
PRINT NAME

Mayor  
TITLE

#### COLUMBIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

CSU OUTREACH REPRESENTATIVE

COORDINATOR OF CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP



# Learning Partnership Questionnaire

To complete the Learning Partner process and receive the partnership benefits, please provide answers for the questions below:

1. Tell us about your company/organization:

**Spring Hill Fire Department**

NAME OF COMPANY/ORGANIZATION

**199 Town Center Parkway**

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

**Spring Hill, TN 37174**

CITY STATE ZIP CODE

**E-Mail**

BEST CONTACT METHOD

**<https://www.springhilltn.org/165/E>**

COMPANY WEBSITE

2. List the liaison your organization has chosen, along with his/her title, phone number and email address.

**Graig Temple**

LIAISON NAME

**Fire Chief**

TITLE

**( 931 ) 451-0636**

PHONE

**gtemple@springhilltn.org**

EMAIL ADDRESS

3. Provide the name, title, and contact information for a secondary point of contact to assist in your absence.

**Kevin Glenn**

SECONDARY CONTACT NAME

**Deputy Chief**

TITLE

**( 931 ) 451-0651**

PHONE

**kglenn@springhilltn.org**

EMAIL ADDRESS

4. Total number of employees and/or members associated with your company/organization?

**64**

5. Does your company/organization offer tuition assistance or reimbursement for educational expenses?

Yes  No

6. Does your organization require or recommend additional education for advancement?

Yes  No

7. Which manner do you prefer to promote CSU and the partnership within your company/organization? (check all that apply)

- Visit, Presentations  Intranet  
 Flyers, catalogs, etc.  Exclusive Emails  
 E-Newsletter

8. A CSU Outreach Representative may be in your area and may contact the liaison you have assigned to visit your company/organization. With your consent, the Outreach Representative will conduct presentations and meet with those interested in furthering their education.

Would you like one of our Outreach Representatives to visit or present to your company/organization?

Yes  No

9. Does your company/organization host an annual Employee Benefits Fair/Educational Fair?

Yes  No

10. Would you like for an Outreach Representative to attend your annual Employee Benefits Fair/Educational Fair?

Yes  No

Please ask current CSU students to contact their Admission/Student Services representative to have the partnership added to their record to obtain the Learning Partner discount.

If you have an employee who is interested in receiving more information about CSU, our Corporate Relations Coordinator available to answer any questions at 800.344.5021 or LearningPartners@ColumbiaSouthern.edu.



FEMA



U.S. Fire Administration  
Working for a fire-safe America

# National Professional Development Model

