

Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (VSIP)

FINAL SEPARATION AND RELEASE AGREEMENT

To Be Signed on Employee's Last Day of Employment

This FINAL Separation Agreement and Release ("Agreement") is by and between the Board of Trustees of the California State University through Sonoma State University (the "University") and NAME ("Employee"). As used in this Agreement, "University" includes the Board of Trustees of the California State University and its agents, employees, attorneys, officers, directors, trustees, auxiliary organizations, affiliates, predecessors, successors in interest and assigns, and representatives. The University and Employee are sometimes collectively referred to as the Parties.

Factual background

Whereas, Employee has already voluntarily resigned their SSU Employment through the Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (attached as Appendix 2 dated XX/XX/XXXX);

Whereas, both the University and Employee desire to settle/avoid any actual or potential differences and disputes of their employment relationship or its termination, and wish to avoid the expense, inconvenience, and uncertainty of further proceedings.

Now, in consideration of the foregoing, and of the mutual covenants, commitments, and agreements contained herein, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, University and Employee each acknowledge and voluntarily agree as follows:

Agreement terms

1. *Severance Benefit:* Within thirty-one (31) days of the Effective Date of this Agreement, the University shall pay Employee the amount of DOLLARS, less all appropriate payroll deductions. This amount represents the final twenty (20) percent of the calculated Severance Benefit package per the terms of the VSIP agreement attached. Employee understands and agrees that the Severance Benefit described in this Agreement exceeds what Employee is otherwise entitled to receive upon separation from employment, and such payment is made in exchange for executing this Agreement and complying with the terms and provisions herein. Employee acknowledges that this payment is not reportable to CalPERS nor will it be included in the calculation of CalPERS retirement benefits. Except as provided in Section 2(c) below, Employee further acknowledges they have no entitlement to any additional payment or consideration not specifically referenced in this Agreement.
2. *General Release and Waiver of Claims:*
 - a. Employee hereby waives and fully releases and forever discharges the University from any and all claims, causes of action, complaints, damages, agreements, suits, attorney's fees, loss, cost or expense, obligations and liabilities, of whatever kind or character, any statutory claims, or any and all other matters of whatever kind, nature or description, whether known or unknown, occurring prior to the date of the execution of this Agreement, which Employee may have against the University, by reason of or arising out of or concerning Employee's employment with the

University. Employee acknowledges that Employee's release of claims specifically includes, but is not limited to, any retreat rights, as well as any and all claims under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. section 2000 et seq.; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, 29 U.S.C. section 621 et seq. ("ADEA"); the Federal Civil Rights Statutes, 42 U.S.C. sections 1981, 1982, 1983, 1985 and 1986; the Americans with Disabilities Act; the Equal Pay Act; the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, California Government Code section 12940 et seq.; the Family and Medical Leave Act; the California Labor Code; and the Unruh Civil Rights Act based upon events occurring prior to the date of the execution of this Agreement.

In so doing, Employee expressly acknowledges that Employee hereby waives all rights Employee may have under Section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which provides:

A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release and that, if known by him or her, would have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor or released party.

Employee understands and acknowledges that the consideration provided for in this Agreement is in full and complete settlement of all claims of any kind, whether known or unknown, actual or potential, which Employee may have against the University in connection with Employee's employment, working conditions, and any other conduct of the Parties occurring prior to the date of the execution of this Agreement.

- b. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to prohibit Employee from filing a charge with or participating in any investigation or proceeding conducted by the EEOC or a comparable state or local agency. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Employee agrees to waive Employee's right to recover monetary damages in any charge, complaint, or lawsuit filed by Employee or by anyone else on Employee's behalf.
 - c. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as waiving any entitlement to any compensation Employee may have under any applicable Collective Bargaining Agreement that is earned by Employee on or before Employee's last day of employment with the University.
3. *Tax Indemnification:* Employee agrees that neither Employee nor Employee's attorneys have relied on any representations as to the tax consequences of this Agreement. Employee further agrees that if any taxing authority determines that any part of the Agreement is taxable, Employee will be solely responsible for all such taxes, and that Employee shall indemnify and hold harmless the University from liability to any tax authority, and from any claims made in any administrative or judicial action to collect taxes from the University. If a proceeding is instituted against the University, the University will give Employee notice of the proceedings at Employee's last known address, and Employee will be obligated to defend and indemnify the University.
 4. *Return of Property:* Employee shall return all University property in their possession or control to the University, including but not limited to, identification cards or badges, keys, laptop, mobile phone, other equipment, electronically stored documents or files, uniforms, and physical files. Employee represents that Employee, as of the Effective Date of this Agreement, has returned all University property to the

University.

5. *Voluntary Agreement*: Employee acknowledges that they have read this Agreement in its entirety, understands it, and enters into this Agreement freely and voluntarily.
6. *Non-Assignment*: The Parties expressly warrant that they have not transferred to any person or entity any right, cause of action or claim released in this Agreement.
7. *Governing Law*: This Agreement shall be interpreted under the laws of the State of California.
8. *Severability*: The provisions of this Agreement are severable, and if any part of it is found to be invalid or unenforceable, the other parts shall remain fully valid and enforceable.
9. *Counterparts*: This Agreement may be executed in several counterparts, and each executed counterpart shall have the same effect as an original and shall constitute an effective, binding Agreement on all of the parties hereto, and their successors and assignees. Electronically scanned copies of signatures will constitute acceptable, binding signatures for purposes of this Agreement.
10. *Complete Agreement*: This Agreement represents the full and complete agreement and understanding between the Parties with respect to the matters stated herein. Any agreement or promises alleged to have been made which are not reflected in the written terms of this Agreement are and shall be superseded by the terms of this Agreement and shall have no effect.
11. *Modification*: No supplement, modification, waiver or amendment of this Agreement shall be binding unless executed in writing by the Party against whom enforcement of such supplement, modification, waiver or amendment is sought.
12. *Captions*: Captions and headings of the sections of this Agreement are intended solely for convenience and no provision of this Agreement is to be construed by reference to the caption or heading of any section or paragraph.
13. *Costs*: The Parties shall bear their own costs, expenses, and attorneys' fees.
14. *Effective Date*: The execution date of this Agreement shall be the date of the last signature of the Parties, upon which this Agreement shall become effective and enforceable ("Effective Date").

By signing below, the Parties witness their agreement to all the terms and conditions of this FINAL SEPARATION AND RELEASE AGREEMENT.

[Employee Name]

Signature

[Date]

For Staff:

Chandra Holte
Interim Senior Director for Human Resources

Signature

[Date]

For Faculty:

Simone Aloisio
Interim AVP for Faculty Affairs and Success

Signature

[Date]

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