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## SIREUS Affiliation of Swedish Universities

**SIREUS** (Students, Innovators, Researchers and Entrepreneurs between the **US** and **Sweden**), started as a collaboration project between The Swedish American Chambers of Commerce (SACC-USA) and initially 12 Swedish universities, focused on knowledge exchange in innovation, science, and entrepreneurship, as well as talent mobility for students and researchers between Sweden and the U.S.

With increased global competition and an accelerating pace of innovation, attracting skilled talent becomes ever more important to secure long-term economic growth. Conversely, the lack of relevant skills is one of the biggest obstacles to growth. A skilled workforce can be achieved through domestic education, by attracting foreign talent, or by individuals studying abroad or gaining knowledge in another country.

The project is supported by the Embassy of Sweden in Washington, DC and the Swedish Institute. It builds on SACC-USA's bilateral business and talent network and addresses needs identified in collaboration with the affiliated universities.

After a successful initial three-year pilot project, SIREUS has gained notability within academic circles, with concrete bilateral cooperation as a result and the stakeholders are now envisioned to create a broader network of academic institutions in Sweden. SACC USA is therefore launching the SIREUS Affiliation of Swedish Universities as the network for student recruitment activities, nurturing bilateral contacts and a platform for bilateral communication regarding student attraction, innovation and research.

**The SIREUS Affiliation of Swedish Universities** is envisioned to be a voluntary association of Swedish universities interested in participating in the SIREUS project and potentially cooperate with American universities.

As Swedish universities affiliate, members will have the opportunity to participate in annual student recruitment activities as well as strategic academic initiatives with many American universities and possible American government/industry. The affiliate will also have the opportunity to get updates from the Swedish Embassy in Washington DC about research projects and government initiatives that can be of interest to Swedish universities. The initiative has the potential to evolve multiple partnerships between Sweden and the US. The members will get first-hand information about and the possibility to participate in programs, events and initiatives which are in the best interest of the affiliation. There will be opportunity for members to participate in workshops and academic delegations in the US and in Sweden. Members are encouraged to be engaged in bilateral cooperation agreement and like activities with American universities.

Swedish universities desiring to participate in events and/or work with the SIREUS American Affiliation of universities are eligible to apply for membership in the affiliation. To qualify for membership the university should be willing and able to.

- Potentially participate in one or more SIREUS events that SACC USA is offering
- Promote student recruitment activities and be open to explore possibilities of "balanced" student and research exchange
- Potentially host a workshop for American universities exploring mutual beneficial opportunities
- Potentially travel to the US for bilateral and mutually beneficial projects
- Being interested in exchange of operational management best practices / foster lessons learned.

Membership in the SIREUS Affiliation of Swedish Universities is free of charge and is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding between SIREUS and the Swedish university. The Affiliates will consist of designated representatives of every affiliated member of the Swedish universities and would be offered to meet in virtual sessions at least twice a year.

The members of the Affiliates agree to:

- Use their best efforts to pursue the goals of the Affiliate
- If possible, attend the twice-yearly virtual meetings
- Facilitate active participation by their faculty and staff in Affiliate strategies and activities in which they believe they can make a positive contribution to the collective success
- Pursue transparency and sharing of data that will facilitate progress toward common affiliated goals and activities to ensure success for the Affiliation
- Comply with any applicable Swedish export control laws and regulations.

The Affiliates are encouraged to establish such other working groups, committees, or task forces as mutually beneficial and agreed.

SACC USA will be responsible for managing the affiliation and assisting the affiliated members in the facilitation of the work of the Affiliation.

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