

SAMANA COLLEGE RESEARCH CENTER

MISSION

Samana College Research Center (SCRC) is a U.S.-sponsored, Caribbean-based study-abroad institution of higher learning with a dual mission: promoting global competency among underserved student populations in the U.S., the Bahamas, and the Dominican Republic; and fostering educational tourism as a tool to support sustainable development of the Dominican Republic. Ideally, the study model developed for SCRC will be replicated throughout the Caribbean.

OVERVIEW

SCRC is situated on ten acres of prime, gated land on the Samana Peninsula in Samana, Dominican Republic, and offers more than a traditional college curriculum or environment. We bring together diverse individuals and institutions to create a vibrant atmosphere that promotes synergistic, collaborative study and fresh solutions to the needs of the Dominican population.

Through innovative, hands-on service programs—and through our affiliations with outstanding partners, including leaders of several United Nations’ initiatives, Columbia University, USAID, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the U.S.—students and interns attending SCRC will develop the skills they need to compete in the global economy, acquire an appreciation of other cultures that will deepen pride in their own, experience first-hand the issues faced by a third-world population and become part of the solution to these issues.

- Students from underserved populations and often undervalued schools will study and work together with students from Columbia University—an Ivy League institution—thereby giving all participants the opportunity to learn from each other within SCRC’s dynamic and supportive environment.
- The curriculum—developed in conjunction with accredited U.S. host colleges—will include classes in Spanish, African heritage, Dominican and Caribbean culture, Caribbean literature, and a wide variety of social and community services. Service programs will include learning and implementing organic agriculture and aquaculture techniques, health and hygiene, cooperative studies with local residents in the culinary arts, and restoration of damaged environmental areas, among others.

SCRC is being developed by Inmobiliaria Minaya y Willmore, S.A., in association with Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the U.S. (HBCUs); the Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program; Columbia University’s ESEG-DR Program; City University (CUNY); National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO); College of the Bahamas (COB); United College Negro Fund Special Programs (UNCFSP); Gerace Research Center (GRC); Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo (UASD); InterDom, an initiative of the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD); USAID-DR; Hunts Point Economic Development Corporation; and the United Nations Global Compact.

Frank Minaya y Willmore and Dr. Dana Minaya, Co-founders

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