

**CONTRACT
BETWEEN TENNESSEE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
AND
RELIANT CAPITAL SOLUTIONS LLC**

This Contract, by and between Tennessee Technological University, hereinafter referred to as "Tennessee Tech" and Reliant Capital Solutions, LLC, hereinafter referred to as the "Contractor," is for debt collection services, as further defined in the "SCOPE OF SERVICES."

The Contractor is a for-profit corporation. The Contractor's address is: 670 Cross Pointe Road, Gahanna, OH 43230.

A. SCOPE OF SERVICES:

- A.1 The Contractor shall provide debt collection services as outlined herein and as defined in Attachment A of this Contract.
- A.2 The Contractor agrees to provide services to Tennessee Tech as well as the eligible institutions listed in Attachment B.

B. CONTRACT TERM:

This Contract shall be effective for the period commencing on July 1, 2025, and ending on June 30, 2030. Tennessee Tech shall have no obligation for services rendered by the Contractor which are not performed within the specified period.

C. PAYMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- C.1. Maximum Liability. In no event shall the maximum liability of Tennessee Tech under this Contract exceed one-hundred-fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000). The Commission Rates in Attachment C include, but are not limited to, all applicable taxes, fees, overheads, and all other direct and indirect costs incurred or to be incurred by the Contractor. The maximum liability represents available funds for payment to the Contractor and does not guarantee payment of any such funds to the Contractor under this Contract unless Tennessee Tech requests work and the Contractor performs the work in accordance with the Contract requirements.
- C.2. Compensation Firm. The Commission Rates and the Maximum Liability of Tennessee Tech under this Contract are firm for the duration of the Contract and are not subject to escalation for any reason unless this Contract is amended.
- C.3. Payment Method. The Contractor shall be compensated by university check.
- C.4. Payment Methodology. The Contractor shall be compensated based on the Commission Rates for units of service authorized by Tennessee Tech in a total amount not to exceed the Contract Maximum Liability established in Section C.1. The Contractor's compensation shall be contingent upon the satisfactory completion of units of service.

The Contractor shall submit invoices, in form and substance acceptable to Tennessee Tech with all of the necessary supporting documentation, prior to any payment. Such invoices shall be submitted for completed units of service or project milestones for the amount stipulated.

C.5. First and Second Placement Accounts.

- a. Placement of accounts for collection will be determined at the discretion of Tennessee Tech and all closing and returning of accounts placed will be at the discretion of Tennessee Tech.

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b. Commissions on accounts referred by Tennessee Tech shall be the sole compensation payable to the Contractor for all collection services performed by the Contractor on First and Second Placement Accounts. The commission is contingent upon collection by the Contractor. Commissions shall be calculated as a percentage of the total amount of the debt (including principal, interest, late charges, and collection cost) recovered by the Contractor.

c. All funds collected as a result of collection efforts shall be deposited into a separate trust account that is insured by an agency of the federal government.

d. The Contractor shall not deduct any fees from the funds it received from collection efforts but shall forward one hundred percent (100%) of all funds received by the Contractor during each month to Tennessee Tech within 10 days of the end of the month of collection.

e. If the promissory note permits, collection costs will be added to the loan balance. Collection cost is calculated as follows: sum of principal, interest and late charges divided by one minus applicable commission rate.

C.6 Litigated Accounts.

a. In the case of litigated accounts, if the promissory note permits, the attorney shall seek outstanding principal, accrued interest, collection costs, past collection costs, late charges, and the costs of filing and service (court costs). If the promissory note and applicable law permits, the attorney may request attorney's fees from the borrower. The Contractor shall advance all court costs.

b. All funds collected as a result of litigation shall be forwarded by the attorney pursuing the litigation to the Contractor prior to the 10th day of each month. The attorney conducting the litigation shall not deduct any fees or commission from any funds collected as a result of litigation.

c. Contractor shall not deduct any commissions due it from the funds it receives from the attorney.

d. Contractor shall deduct the court costs it advanced, if such are awarded, from the first remittance upon judgment prior to forwarding all funds received by the Contractor during each month to Tennessee Tech. In the event that funds are recovered but court costs are not awarded, or if no funds are recovered under the judgment, Tennessee Tech shall reimburse the Contractor for all court costs advanced by the Contractor. The Contractor must document all requests for court costs with receipts for services performed.

e. If attorney fees are awarded, the Contractor will maintain all funds collected as attorney fees in a separate trust account and shall remit all such funds to the attorney in full each month. The Contractor shall not forward any funds collected that represent attorney fees to Tennessee Tech. These fees shall only be placed in the trust account maintained for attorney fees when all other amounts under the judgment have been satisfied.

f. The priority distribution of all funds recovered by the Contractor under each judgment on each individual loan account shall be as follows:

- o Filing and service fees
- o Interest on the principal amount
- o Principal
- o Late charges
- o Collection costs
- o Attorney fees

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Compensation to the Contractor, other than court costs paid by the Contractor, is contingent upon collection by the Contractor. Commissions shall be calculated as a percentage of the total amount of debt (including principal, interest, late charges, and collection costs) recovered by the Contractor.

g. If the promissory note permits, collection costs will be added to the loan balance. Collection cost is calculated as follows: sum of principal, interest and late charges divided by one minus applicable commission rate.

C.7 Payment of Commissions. Payment of commissions by Tennessee Tech shall only be made after receipt by Tennessee Tech of both:

- o Invoices evidencing the services performed; and
- o Remittance of the total amount recovered by the Contractor during the invoice period.

C.8 Invoice Reductions. The Contractor's invoice shall be subject to reduction for amounts included in any invoice or payment theretofore made which are determined by Tennessee Tech, on the basis of audits conducted in accordance with the terms of this Contract, not to constitute proper remuneration for compensable services.

D. CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES:

Contractor's responsibilities are further defined in Attachment A.

E. TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

E.1. Required Approvals. Tennessee Tech is not bound by this Contract until it is approved by the appropriate officials in accordance with applicable Tennessee laws and regulations as shown on the signature page of this Contract.

E.2. Modification and Amendment. This Contract may be modified only by a written amendment executed by all parties hereto and approved by the appropriate officials.

E.3. Termination for Convenience. Tennessee Tech may terminate this service Contract with a thirty (30) day written notice submitted by the university Purchasing and Contracts Office. Upon termination the Contractor shall be entitled to receive just and equitable compensation for any satisfactory authorized work completed as of the termination date.

E.4. Termination for Cause. If the Contractor fails at any time to perform its obligations under this Contract in a timely or proper manner, or if the Contractor violates any term of this Contract, Tennessee Tech shall have the right to immediately terminate the Contract and withhold payments in excess of fair compensation for goods received and/or work completed; however, the university shall have the option to give Contractor written notice and a specified period of time in which to cure. Notwithstanding the above, the Contractor shall not be relieved of liability to Tennessee Tech for damages sustained by virtue of any breach of this Contract by the Contractor.

E.5. Subcontracting. The Contractor shall not assign this Contract or enter into a subcontract for any of the services performed under this Contract without obtaining the prior written approval of Tennessee Tech. If such subcontracts are approved by Tennessee Tech, they shall contain, at a minimum, sections of this Contract pertaining to "Conflicts of Interest" and "Nondiscrimination". Notwithstanding any use of approved subcontractors, the Contractor shall be the prime contractor and shall be responsible for all work performed.

E.6. Nondiscrimination. The Contractor hereby agrees, warrants, and assures that no person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the performance of this Contract or in the employment practices of the Contractor on the grounds of disability, age, race, color, religion, sex, veteran status, national origin, or any other classification

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protected by Federal, or State constitutional or statutory law. The Contractor shall, upon request, show proof of such nondiscrimination and shall post in conspicuous places, available to all employees and applicants, notices of nondiscrimination.

- E.7. Records. The Contractor shall maintain documentation for all charges against Tennessee Tech under this Contract. The books, records, and documents of the Contractor, insofar as they relate to work performed or money received from Tennessee Tech under this Contract, shall be maintained for a period of five (5) full years from the date of the final payment and shall be subject to audit at any reasonable time and upon reasonable notice by the university, the Comptroller of the Treasury, or their duly appointed representatives. The Contractor's financial statements shall be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
- E.8. Monitoring. The Contractor's activities conducted and records maintained pursuant to this Contract shall be subject to monitoring and evaluation by Tennessee Tech, the Comptroller of the Treasury, or their duly appointed representatives.
- E.9. Strict Performance. Failure by any party to this Contract to insist in any one or more cases upon the strict performance of any of the terms, covenants, conditions, or provisions of this Contract shall not be construed as a waiver or relinquishment of any such term, covenant, condition, or provision. No term or condition of this Contract shall be held to be waived, modified, or deleted except by a written amendment signed by the parties hereto.
- E.10. Independent Contractor. The parties hereto, in the performance of this Contract, shall not act as employees, partners, joint ventures, or associates of one another. It is expressly acknowledged by the parties hereto that the parties are independent contracting entities and that nothing in this Contract shall be construed to create an employer/employee relationship or to allow either to exercise control or direction over the manner or method by which the other transacts its business affairs or provides its usual services. The employees or agents of one party shall not be deemed or construed to be the employees or agents of the other party for any purpose whatsoever.
- The Contractor, being an independent contractor and not an employee of Tennessee Tech, agrees to carry adequate public liability and other appropriate forms of insurance on the Contractor's employees, and to pay all applicable taxes incident to this Contract.
- E.11. University Liability. Tennessee Tech shall have no liability except as specifically provided in this Contract.
- E.12. Force Majeure. The obligations of the parties to this Contract are subject to prevention by causes beyond the parties' control that could not be avoided by the exercise of due care including, but not limited to, acts of God, riots, wars, epidemics or any other similar cause.
- E.13. State and Federal Compliance. The Contractor shall comply with all applicable State and Federal laws and regulations, including Tennessee Tech policies and guidelines in the performance of this Contract.
- E.14. Governing Law. This Contract shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Tennessee. The Contractor agrees that it will be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Tennessee Claims Commission in actions that may arise under this Contract. The Contractor acknowledges and agrees that any rights or claims against Tennessee Tech or its employees hereunder, and any remedies arising there from, shall be subject to and limited to those rights and remedies, if any, available under Tennessee Code Annotated, Sections 9-8-101 through 9-8-407.
- E.15. Severability. If any terms or conditions of this Contract are held to be invalid or unenforceable as a matter of law, the other terms and conditions hereof shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect. To this end, the terms and conditions of this Contract are declared severable.
- E.16. Headings. Section headings of this Contract are for reference purposes only and shall not be construed as part of this Contract.

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- E.17. Communications and Contacts. All instructions, notices, consents, demands, or other communications shall be sent in a manner that verifies proof of delivery. Any communication by facsimile transmission shall also be sent by United States mail on the same date as the facsimile transmission. All communications which relate to any changes to the Contract shall not be considered effective until agreed to, in writing, by both parties.

Tennessee Tech:

Donna Wallis, Director of Purchasing and Contracts
Tennessee Technological University
Box 5144
1 William L Jones Drive, Suite 301
Cookeville, TN 38505
Phone: (931) 372-3492
Fax: (931) 372-3727
Email: dwallis@tntech.edu

The Contractor:

Meghan Sharick, General Counsel
Reliant Capital Solutions, LLC
670 Cross Pointe Road
Gahanna, OH 43230
Phone: 614-522-6440
Email: msharick@reliant-cap.com

- E.18. Breach. A party shall be deemed to have breached the Contract if any of the following occurs (However, this list is not exclusive.):

- failure to perform in accordance with any term or provision of the Contract;
- partial performance of any term or provision of the Contract;
- any act prohibited or restricted by the Contract, or violation of any warranty.

- E.19. Contract Documents. Included in this Contract by reference are the following documents:

- a. This Contract document and its attachments
- b. The Request for Quotations and its associated amendments
- c. The Contractor's Bid dated 5/8/2025.

In the event of a discrepancy or ambiguity regarding the interpretation of this Contract, these documents shall govern in order of precedence as listed above.

- E.20. Prohibited Advertising. The Contractor shall not refer to this Contract or the Contractor's relationship with Tennessee Tech hereunder in commercial advertising in such a manner as to state or imply that the Contractor or the Contractor's services are endorsed.

- E.21. Hold Harmless. The Contractor agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Tennessee Tech as well as its officers, agents, and employees from and against any and all claims, liabilities, losses, and causes of action which may arise, accrue, or result to any person, firm, corporation, or other entity which may be injured or damaged as a result of acts, omissions, or negligence on the part of the Contractor, its employees, or any person acting for or on its or their behalf relating to this Contract. The Contractor further agrees it shall be liable for the reasonable cost of attorneys for Tennessee Tech in the event such service is necessitated to enforce the terms of this Contract or otherwise enforce the obligations of the Contractor to the university.

In the event of any such suit or claim, the Contractor shall give Tennessee Tech immediate notice thereof and shall provide all assistance required by the university in the university's defense. Tennessee Tech shall give the Contractor written notice of any such claim or suit, and the Contractor shall have full right and obligation to conduct the Contractor's own defense thereof. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed to accord to the Contractor, through its attorney(s), the right to represent Tennessee Tech in any legal matter, such rights being governed by **Tennessee Code Annotated**, Section 8-6-106.

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- E.22. Debarment and Suspension. The Contractor certifies, to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it and its principals:
- a. are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal or state department or agency;
 - b. have not within a three (3) year period preceding this Contract been convicted of, or had a civil judgment rendered against them from commission of fraud, or a criminal offence in connection with obtaining attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or Local) transaction or grant under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification, or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
 - c. are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a government entity (Federal, State, or Local) with commission of any of the offenses listed in section b. of this certification; and
 - d. have not within a three (3) year period preceding this Contract had one or more public transactions (Federal, State, or Local) terminated for cause or default.

- E.23. Prohibition of Illegal Immigrants. Tennessee Public Chapter No. 878 of 2006, TCA 12-4-124, requires that Contractor attest in writing that Contractor will not knowingly utilize the services of any illegal immigrants in the performance of this contract and will not knowingly utilize the services of any subcontractor, if permitted under this Contract, who will utilize the services of illegal immigrants in the performance of this Contract. Contractor's signature below shall constitute such "Attestation."

If contractor is discovered to have breached the Attestation, the Commissioner of Finance and Administration shall declare that the Contractor shall be prohibited from contacting or submitting a bid to any state entity for a period of one (1) year from the date of discovery of the breach. Contractor may appeal the one (1) year by utilizing an appeals process in the rules of Finance and administration, 0620.

- E.24 Conflicts of Interest. Contractor certifies its compliance with applicable federal and state laws, rules and regulations and Tennessee Tech policies with respect to Conflict of Interest, including, but not limited to the following:
- Pursuant to T.C.A. § 12-4-103, Contractor acknowledges that it is unlawful for any state official or employee to bid on, sell, or offer for sale, any merchandise, equipment or material, or similar commodity, to the state of Tennessee during the tenure of such official's or employee's office or employment, or for six (6) months thereafter, or to have any interest in the selling of the same to the state;
 - Contractor is not a Tennessee Tech employee's business or a Tennessee Tech family member's business engaged in selling merchandise, equipment, materials or similar commodities to the university. Family member means a spouse or child dependent or non-dependent of Tennessee Tech employee, unless otherwise defined by statute (TTU Policy 132).
 - Contractor is not a current state employee, nor was Contractor a state employee in the past six months, who is entering into a service agreement with Tennessee Tech. Contracts with the employee's spouse, a company or corporation in which a controlling interest is held by any state employee or the employee's spouse shall be considered, for the purpose of applying this rule, to be a contract with said individual (TTU Policy 132).

- E.25 Subject to Funds Availability. The Agreement is subject to the appropriation and availability of state and/or federal funds. Pursuant to T.C.A. § 12-3-305(c)(2), Tennessee Tech may, upon written notice to the Contractor, terminate The Agreement at the end of any fiscal year in the event that funds are not appropriated or are otherwise unavailable for the Agreement's continuance.

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- E.26 Insurance. The Contractor shall maintain a commercial general liability policy, which shall provide coverage with minimum limits of \$1,000,000 per occurrence, \$2,000,000 in the aggregate and which shall name Tennessee Tech as additional insured. The Contractor shall maintain workers' compensation coverage or a self-insured program as required under Tennessee law. The Contractor shall deliver to Tennessee Tech certificates of insurance upon request. If any policy providing insurance required by the Contract is cancelled prior to the policy expiration date, the Contractor, upon receiving a notice of cancellation, shall give immediate notice to Tennessee Tech. The enumeration in the Contract of the kinds and amounts of liability insurance shall not abridge, diminish or affect the Contractor's legal responsibilities arising out of or resulting from the goods and/or services under this Contract.
- E.27 Sales and Use Tax. Contractor certifies that the Contractor has either registered with the State of Tennessee's Department of Revenue for or does not make sales of goods or services that are subject to the collection of Tennessee sales and use tax, as required by T.C.A. § 12-3-306.
- E.28 Boycott of Israel. Contractor certifies that it is not currently engaged in, and will not for the duration of the contract engage in, a boycott of Israel as defined by T.C.A. §12-4-119. This provision does not apply to a contract with a total potential value of less than two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000).
- E.29 Counterparts. The Parties agree that this Agreement may be executed in counterparts, executed electronically and transmitted electronically.
- E.30 Iran Divestment Act. Contractor certifies, under penalty of perjury, that to the best of its knowledge and belief, neither it nor any of its subcontractors, if applicable, is ineligible to contract with the State of Tennessee due to the Iran Divestment Act (T.C.A. § 12-12-101 et seq.) or any other reason.
- E.31 Data Privacy and Security.

Data Privacy. "Personal Information" means information provided to Contractor by or at the direction of Tennessee Tech, or to which access was provided to Contractor by or at the direction of the university, in the course of Contractor's performance under this Contract that: (i) identifies or can be used to identify an individual (including, without limitation, names, signatures, addresses, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses and other unique identifiers); or (ii) can be used to authenticate an individual (including, without limitation, employee identification numbers, government-issued identification numbers, passwords or PINs, financial account numbers, credit report information, biometric or health data, answers to security questions and other personal identifiers).

Contractor represents and warrants that its collection, access, use, storage, disposal and disclosure of Personal Information complies with all applicable international, federal and state privacy and data protection laws, including without limitation, the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act ("GLBA"); the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act ("HIPAA"); the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") of 1974 (20 U.S.C.1232g), the FTC's Red Flag Rules, as amended, together with regulations promulgated thereunder. Contractor represents and warrants that Contractor will use the Personal Information only for the purposes authorized by this Agreement and will not sell or share the Personal Information with any other person or entity.

Some Personal Information provided by Tennessee Tech to Contractor is subject to FERPA. Contractor acknowledges that its improper disclosure or re-disclosure of Personal Information covered by FERPA may, under certain circumstances, result in Contractor's exclusion from eligibility to contract with Customer for at least five (5) years and agrees to become a "school official" as defined in the applicable Federal Regulations for the purposes of this Contract.

With respect to any processing of personal data of persons located in, or personal data obtained from within, the European Union (EU), Contractor certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws or regulations related to acceptance, transmission, and/or storage of such personal data as defined by and in accordance with the EU's General Data Protection Regulations ("GDPR"). Contractor will only act on the written instruction of Tennessee Tech and will assist the university in compliance with GDPR in relation to the security of processing, the notification of personal data breaches, data protection impact

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assessments, answering data subjects' requests, and allowing data subjects to exercise their rights under the GDPR. Contractor consents to audits and inspections as necessary to ensure compliance with these provisions.

Data Security. Contractor represents and warrants that Contractor will maintain compliance with the SSAE 16 standard, and shall undertake any audits and risk assessments Contractor deems necessary to maintain compliance with SSAE16.

Incident Response. "Security Incident" means any reasonably suspected breach of information security, unauthorized access to any System, server or database, or any other unauthorized access, use, or disclosure of Personal Information or Highly-Sensitive Personal Information occurring on Systems under Contractor's control. Contractor shall: (i) provide Tennessee Tech with the name and contact information for an employee of Contractor who shall serve as university's primary security contact and shall be available to assist university twenty-four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days per week as a contact in resolving obligations associated with a Security Incident; (ii) notify Tennessee Tech of a Security Incident as soon as practicable, but no later than forty eight (48) hours after Contractor becomes aware of it, except where disclosure is prohibited by law; and (iii) notify Tennessee Tech of any such Security Incident by email to ociso@tntech.edu with a copy by e-mail to Contractor's primary business contact at the university.

Contractor shall use best efforts to immediately mitigate or resolve any Security Incident, at Contractor's expense and in accordance with applicable privacy rights, laws, regulations and standards. Contractor shall reimburse Tennessee Tech for actual costs incurred by the university in responding to, and mitigating damages caused by, any Security Incident, including all costs of notice and/or remediation incurred under all applicable laws as a result of the Security Incident.

Return of Personal Information. At any time during the term of this Contract, at Tennessee Tech's written request or upon the termination or expiration of this Contract, Contractor shall return to the university all copies, whether in written, electronic or other form or media, of Confidential, Highly-Sensitive, or Personal Information in its possession, or at the university's direction, securely dispose of all such copies.

The Contractor shall provide and retain timely, accurate, and comprehensive information such as records and reports that allow TBR to monitor risks. The inventory of reports should include SOC 1, SOC 2, and reports for data breaches.

E.32 **PCI Compliance.** Contractor represents and warrants that for the life of the Contract, the software and services used for processing credit card transactions shall be compliant with standards established by the PCI Security Standards Council (<https://www.pcisecuritystandards.org/>). Contractor must clearly define the managed PCI DSS requirements and provide a written agreement that the Contractor is responsible for the security of the cardholder data the Contractor possesses or otherwise stores, processes or transmits on behalf of Tennessee Tech. Contractor agrees to indemnify and hold Tennessee Tech, its officers, employees, and agents, harmless for, from and against any and all claims, causes of action, suits, judgments, assessments, costs (including reasonable attorneys' fees) and expenses arising out of or relating to any loss of Tennessee Tech customer credit card or identity information managed, retained or maintained by Contractor, including but not limited to fraudulent or unapproved use of such credit card or identity information. Contractor must annually submit the appropriate "Attestation of Compliance" to Tennessee Tech and clearly identify the services and system components that are included in the scope of their assessment.

E.33 **Progress Reports.**

E33.1 The Contractor shall submit monthly/quarterly progress reports to Tennessee Tech containing the following information:

- Monthly acknowledgement of placements (accounts assigned listing)

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- Monthly activity report (detail of collections and commissions)
- Monthly status/inventory of all accounts
- Monthly close and return report (shall list reason for return)
- Quarterly status of litigation
- Summary performance analysis

E33.2 The Contractor shall submit annual reports to Tennessee Tech containing the following information:

- Commissions Paid
- Accounts Placed
- Annual status of litigations
- Summary Performance Analysis

IN WITNESS WHEREOF:

RELIANT CAPITAL SOLUTIONS LLC:

Signed by:

Feroze Waheed

5/30/2025

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Feroze Waheed

Date

Chief Strategy Officer

TENNESSEE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY:

Signed by:

Claire Stinson DAW

5/30/2025

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Claire Stinson

Date

Vice President for Planning and Finance

ATTACHMENT A

CONTRACTOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

I. Program Administration.

- Contractor shall promptly respond to and resolve questions, concerns, and problems of Tennessee Tech.
- Contractor shall periodically contact Tennessee Tech.
- Contractor shall furnish updates on changes in agency personnel and procedures and pertinent laws and regulations to Tennessee Tech.
- Contractor must provide audited financial statements for the last three years and will also provide a federal compliance audit as required by Section 682.416(e) of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

II. Duties of the Contractor shall include the following:

- Contractor must comply with U.S. Department of Education regulations pertaining to collection efforts by collection agencies.
- Contractor's personnel must be knowledgeable of and comply with the most recent federal regulations and guidelines.
- Collection of all accounts referred by Tennessee Tech must be promptly undertaken through proper and lawful means without guarantees as to volume or number of accounts.
- A reasonable number of telephone calls, mail efforts, and skip tracing attempts must be made as necessary.
- Accounts more than \$2000 must be litigated if collection efforts are not successful, provided the conditions of the Department of Education regulations are met prior to initiating litigation. The Contractor must obtain prior written approval from Tennessee Tech.
- Contractor shall remit gross receipts collected from the debtors within 10 days of the end of the month of collection.
- Contractor shall provide a report of due diligence on uncollectible student loans to support assignment to the U.S. Department of Education.
- Provide Tennessee Tech with reports to include the following: Monthly Acknowledgement of placements (accounts assigned listing); Monthly activity report (detail of collections and commissions); Monthly status/inventory of all accounts; Monthly close and return report (shall list reason for return); Quarterly status of litigation; Summary performance analysis.
- Contractor shall have the capability to accept accounts through any medium designated by Tennessee Tech, including e-mail, other computer media, hard copy printout, or manually prepared records.
- Placement of accounts for collection will be determined at the discretion of Tennessee Tech and all closing and returning of accounts will be at the discretion of the university.
- Contractor must attempt to obtain signed repayment agreements from borrowers. The original shall be furnished to Tennessee Tech to allow adjustment of the default rate.
- Contractor shall automatically accrue the appropriate interest on student loans.
- Collection costs will be added to loan balances by Tennessee Tech if specified in the promissory note. Contractor must attempt to collect these costs in addition to principal and interest and any other charges. Collection cost is calculated as follows: sum of principal, interest and late charges divided by one minus applicable commission rate.
- Contractor shall notify Tennessee Tech of any deferments, postponements, or cancellations a borrower is entitled to, such as student, military, Peace Corps, teaching, death, etc. and assist in obtaining the necessary forms to document this status. Reduction in account balances resulting from such status must be returned to Tennessee Tech without charge. If filing necessary form results in account becoming current, then the account must be returned to Tennessee Tech without charge.
- Upon request from Tennessee Tech, and to the extent allowed by law, Contractor shall report accounts to the credit bureaus 30 days after placement.
- In the event that the Contractor receives notice that a debtor has filed a bankruptcy petition, the Contractor shall cease all collection activity immediately and shall notify any attorney(s) to which the account has been referred for legal action to cease all collection activity. The Contractor shall send such bankruptcy notice and all relevant documents to Tennessee Tech immediately. Under no circumstances

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shall the Contractor or attorney(s) file a proof of claim with the bankruptcy court either in its own name or on behalf of Tennessee Tech.

- Contractor shall contact Tennessee Tech prior to an agency accepting a payment as final.
- Contractor shall permit Tennessee Tech to recall accounts without charge in cases in which an account was referred in error (e.g. borrower was not delinquent or payment had not been posted).
- Contractor shall automatically return accounts to Tennessee Tech that are not in an active repayment or litigation status within nine months of assignment. Information obtained by the agency including, but not limited to, the borrower's current address, phone number, employer, income, assets, and any other information that will aid in the future collection of the account shall be furnished to Tennessee Tech.
- Federal Perkins student loan accounts placed with the agency shall be returned to Tennessee Tech after successful rehabilitation by the borrower, as defined by Section 674.39 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
- Contractor must describe the reason an account is returned to Tennessee Tech. The reason must be one listed in the U.S. Department of Education due diligence regulations.
- Contractor must supply name and address changes to Tennessee Tech for all accounts referred for collections.
- In Contractor's billing, the agency's fee must not be deducted from funds collected from debtors.
- Contractor shall advance all court costs and filing fees for accounts submitted for litigation. These costs are to be reimbursed from the first monies collected from the debtor.
- Contractor shall have and maintain throughout the term of this agreement an identity theft prevention program for new and existing accounts which complies with the Federal Trade Commission regulations known as the Red Flag Rules.
- Contractor must agree to accept both primary and secondary placements of accounts.
- Contractor shall cause suit to be brought in the name of Tennessee Tech if collection efforts fail, provided the conditions of the U.S. Department of Education regulations are met prior to initiating litigation. The Contractor must obtain prior written approval from Tennessee Tech.
- All legal action must be conducted by licensed attorneys authorized to practice in the state where the action is being pursued. A list of attorneys and their credentials must be submitted for approval by Tennessee Tech. The Contractor shall submit documentation to show that the distribution of accounts to the attorneys on the list is equitable and just. No accounts may be referred to attorneys not approved by the Tennessee Tech.
- Contractor shall provide letters from the Boards of Professional Responsibility in each state in which an attorney utilized by the Contractor is licensed, attesting that the attorney is in good standing. Each attorney conducting legal action in pursuit of collection of accounts under this Contract shall be required to execute an agreement with the Contractor consistent with this Contract and expressly incorporating the mandatory Terms and Conditions.
- At any time and without prior notice, Tennessee Tech or the Attorney General may request in writing that the Contractor cease using a particular attorney(s) for referral of accounts under this Contract. Upon receipt of such a request the Contractor shall cease referring such accounts to said attorney(s) and shall notify said attorney(s) to cease all activity on accounts previously referred. Contractor shall certify to Tennessee Tech and the Attorney General, in writing, that it has complied with such request and that the attorney(s) has (have) ceased all legal action in pursuit of accounts under this agreement. Breach of this provision shall be grounds for immediate termination.
- All legal action must conform to all applicable state and federal laws and regulations including, but not limited to, the Tennessee Collection Services Act, the Tennessee Consumer Protection Act, the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, and all amendments thereto. Legal action in pursuit of collection of federally funded student loans must comply with all applicable federal regulations including, but not limited to, those of the U.S. Department of Education,
- No attorney may use or mention the name of the State Attorney General in connection with any legal action or to facilitate collection efforts without the prior written approval of the Attorney General.
- Contractor shall furnish Tennessee Tech with copies of the judgments

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ATTACHMENT B

LISTING OF LOCALLY-GOVERNED INSTITUTIONS, TBR SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS, THE UT SYSTEMS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND STATE OF TENNESSEE

Tennessee Board of Regents, Central Office
Austin Peay State University
East Tennessee State University
Middle Tennessee State University
Tennessee State University
Tennessee Technological University
University of Memphis
Chattanooga State Technical Community College
Cleveland State Community College
 TCAT-Athens
Columbia State Community College
 TCAT-Pulaski
 TCAT-Hohenwald
Dyersburg State Community College
 TCAT-Newbern
 TCAT-Ripley
 TCAT-Covington
Jackson State Community College
 TCAT-Jackson
 TCAT-Whiteville
 TCAT-Crump
 TCAT-McKenzie
 TCAT-Paris
Motlow State Community College
 TCAT-Shelbyville
 TCAT-Murfreesboro
 TCAT-McMinnville
Nashville State Community College
 TCAT-Nashville
 TCAT-Dickson
Northeast State Technical Community College
 TCAT-Elizabethton
Pellissippi State Technical Community College
 TCAT-Knoxville
Roane State Community College
 TCAT-Oneida/Huntsville
 TCAT-Harriman
 TCAT-Jacksboro
 TCAT-Crossville
Southwest Tennessee Community College
 TCAT-Memphis
Volunteer State Community College
 TCAT-Livingston
 TCAT-Hartsville
Walters State Community College
 TCAT-Morristown
University of Tennessee – Chattanooga
University of Tennessee – Knoxville
University of Tennessee – Martin
University of Tennessee – Memphis
University of Tennessee – Tullahoma

State of Tennessee

ATTACHMENT C – COMMISSION RATES

Account Type	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five
First Placement	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%
Second Placement	16%	16%	16%	16%	16%
Litigated	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%

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FW

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CS/DAW