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PRESS RELEASE

University Ana G. Méndez and Discover Puerto Rico Sign Collaborative Agreement to Advance Tourism Education and Industry Development in Puerto Rico

San Juan, Puerto Rico – May 13, 2026 – Universidad Ana G. Méndez (UAGM) and Discover Puerto Rico announced the signing of a collaborative agreement establishing a framework for cooperation to advance educational, community, and tourism development initiatives across the Island. The agreement’s primary objective is to strengthen collaboration between academia and the tourism sector through the creation of training programs, research initiatives, academic outreach, and hands-on learning experiences for students, all aligned with the evolving needs of Puerto Rico’s tourism ecosystem.

As part of the partnership, both organizations will collaborate on conferences, seminars, and specialized courses; promote institutional engagement to support the continued growth of the tourism industry; and create internship opportunities for UAGM students, particularly those enrolled in the José A. “Tony” Santana International School of Hospitality and Culinary Arts (ISHCA).

The agreement also includes the development of joint research initiatives, participation in industry forums and events, and the exploration of opportunities to integrate students and faculty into international platforms, including high-profile tourism events that further strengthen Puerto Rico’s positioning as a premier global destination.

This collaboration coincides with the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the José A. “Tony” Santana International School of Hospitality and Culinary Arts (ISHCA), located at UAGM’s Carolina Campus. “At Discover Puerto Rico, we firmly believe in the power of education and collaboration as drivers of sustainable growth for our industry. This alliance with the University Ana G. Méndez allows us to invest in local talent, strengthen the tourism ecosystem, and continue elevating Puerto Rico’s competitiveness as a world-class destination,” said Jorge L. Pérez, Chief Executive Officer of Discover Puerto Rico.

Furthermore, UAGM reaffirmed its commitment to its mission of social and community impact by promoting initiatives that contribute to the Island’s economic, educational, and cultural development, particularly within strategic sectors such as tourism. “This strategic alliance reinforces the University Ana G. Méndez’s commitment to advancing tourism development in Puerto Rico through the integration of academia and industry. In addition, it creates opportunities for research, professional development, and internationalization, while positioning Puerto Rico as a destination for academic tourism and globally impactful educational experiences,” said Dr. José F. Méndez Méndez, President of the University Ana G. Méndez.

The agreement will have an initial term of two years and will support the implementation of specific initiatives designed to foster innovation, knowledge exchange, and the development of future generations of hospitality and tourism professionals.



About Discover Puerto Rico:

Discover Puerto Rico is a private, nonprofit organization responsible for marketing Puerto Rico as a world-class destination for leisure travel, business travel, events, and conventions. The organization drives prosperity for the people of Puerto Rico by promoting the Island's diversity and unique offerings in collaboration with public and private sector partners. Discover Puerto Rico oversees all global destination marketing, sales, and promotional efforts and works closely with key government and nongovernment tourism stakeholders and the broader Puerto Rican community to support economic growth.

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