



HØGSKOLEN I HARSTAD
HARSTAD UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

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**Comments on the North America Strategy for Higher Education Cooperation
2012-2015 of the Ministry of Education and Research**

Harstad University College welcomes the North America Strategy for Higher Education Cooperation 2012-2015.

Our institution has had the pleasure of actively taking part in the Partnership Program for higher education collaboration and has in the period 2008-2011 successfully started collaboration with two North American Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). The seed funding has in addition to student and staff mobility financed through the Fellowship Programme for Studies in the High North, resulted in a research project on disability studies.

For that reason we are very pleased to see that "health" has been specifically mentioned as one of the prioritized fields for 2012 – 2015.

Harstad University College has been a member of the University of the Arctic since 2003 and has benefitted from the N2N program in terms of both student and staff exchanges. Recognition and credit transfer are important aspects of the student exchanges. Our institution is responsible for a newly established UArctic thematic network "the Management of Small and Medium-Sized Companies in the High North" which provides a good basis for research cooperation. We hope to combine research with circumpolar student placements, both to gain valuable work experience for students but also as a useful tool for research data collection.

Based on the above, we fully support the main priorities in the 2012-2015 strategy.

Yours sincerely
HARSTAD UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

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