

unless the applicant can show, in accordance with 34 CFR 75.102 (d) and (e), proof that the application was (1) sent by registered or certified mail not later than five days before the deadline date; or (2) sent by commercial carrier not later than two days before the deadline date. An applicant must show proof of mailing in accordance with 34 CFR 75.102(d) and (e). Applications delivered by hand must be received by 4:00 p.m. (Washington, D.C. time) on the deadline date. For the purposes of this competition the Secretary proposes not to apply 34 CFR 75.102(b), which requires an application to be mailed, rather than received, by the deadline date.

#### *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995*

The proposed selection criteria contain information collection requirements. As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507(d)), the Department of Education has submitted a copy of these selection criteria to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review.

Collection of Information: Technology Innovation Challenge Grants Program.

Under this program consortia are eligible to apply. Each consortium must include at least one LEA with a high percentage or number of children living below the poverty line and may include other LEAs, State educational agencies, institutions of higher education, businesses, academic content experts, software designers, museums, libraries, or other appropriate entities. The information to be collected includes a description of each proposed project, including the professional development that teachers and other educational support staff will receive in the use of technologies; the integration of acquired technologies into curriculum to enhance teaching, training, and student achievement; and a project evaluation including a dissemination strategy. The Department needs and will use the information to select, on the basis of project feasibility and significance, the highest quality applications.

All information is to be collected and reported once, as part of the application for assistance. Annual reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 40 hours for each response for 500 respondents, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Thus, the total annual reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection is estimated to be 20,000

hours. Organizations and individuals desiring to submit comments on the information collection requirements should direct them to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503; Attention: Desk Officer for U.S. Department of Education.

The Department considers comments by the public on these proposed collections of information in—

- Evaluating whether the proposed collections of information are necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluating the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed collections of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhancing the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimizing the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology; e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

OMB is required to make a decision concerning the collections of information contained in these proposed selection criteria, selection procedures, and application procedures between 30 and 60 days after publication of this document in the Federal Register. Therefore, a comment to OMB is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication. This does not affect the deadline for the public to comment to the Department on the proposed selection criteria and procedures.

#### *Intergovernmental Review*

This program is subject to the requirements of Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. The objective of the Executive Order is to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism by relying on processes developed by State and local governments for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance.

In accordance with the Order, this document is intended to provide early notification of the Department's specific plans and actions for this program.

#### Invitation to Comment

Interested persons are invited to submit comments and recommendations regarding these proposed selection criteria and procedures. Comments will be available for public inspection, during and after the comment period, in Room 606D, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday of each week except Federal holidays.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 6846.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 84.303A, Challenge Grants for Technology in Education)

Dated: February 21, 1997.

Marshall Smith,

*Acting Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement.*

[FR Doc. 97-4768 Filed 2-25-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

#### [CFDA No.: 84.304A]

#### **International Education Exchange Program; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 1997**

*Purpose of Program:* To support international education exchange activities between the United States and eligible countries in civics and government education and economic education.

*Eligible Applicants:* Independent nonprofit educational organizations that—

(a) Have expertise in international achievement comparisons, and are experienced in—

(1) The development and national implementation of curricular programs in civics and government education and economic education for students from grades kindergarten through 12 in local, intermediate, and State educational agencies, in schools funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and in private schools throughout the Nation with the cooperation and assistance of national professional educational organizations, colleges and universities and private sector organizations;

(2) The development and implementation of cooperative university and school-based inservice training programs for teachers of grades kindergarten through 12 using scholars from such relevant disciplines as political science, political philosophy, history, law, and economics;

(3) The development of model curricular frameworks in civics and government education and economic education;

(4) The administration of international seminars on the goals and objectives of civics and government education or economic education in constitutional democracies (including the sharing of curricular materials) for educational leaders, teacher trainers, scholars in related disciplines, and educational policymakers; and

(5) The evaluation of civics and government education or economic education programs; and

(b) Have the authority to subcontract with other organizations to carry out these provisions.

*Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:* May 5, 1997.

*Deadline for Intergovernmental Review:* July 7, 1997.

*Applications Available:* March 5, 1997.

*Available Funds:* \$4,980,000.

*Estimated Range of Awards:*

\$2,290,000 to \$2,690,000.

*Estimated Average Size of Awards:*

\$2,490,000.

*Estimated Number of Awards:* 2.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

*Maximum award:* In no case does the Secretary make an award greater than \$2,690,000 for a single budget period of 12 months. The Secretary does not consider an application that proposes a budget exceeding this maximum amount.

*Budget period:* 12 months.

*Project Period:* Up to 48 months.

*Applicable Regulations:* (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, and 86; and (b) the regulations in 34 CFR parts 98, 99, and 700.

#### PRIORITIES

Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3) and 20 U.S.C. 5951(c)(2)(B) the Secretary gives an absolute preference to applications that meet one of the priorities in the next two paragraphs. The Secretary funds under this competition only applications that meet one of these absolute priorities.

*Absolute Priority 1—International Education Exchange Program in Civics and Government Education.*  
*Absolute Priority 2—International Education Exchange Program in Economic Education.*

To meet one of these two priorities, each applicant must propose to carry out the following activities, in either civics and government education or economic education:

(a) Provide eligible countries with—

(1) Seminars on the basic principles of the United States constitutional

democracy and economics, including seminars on the major governmental and economic institutions and systems in the United States, and visits to such institutions;

(2) Visits to school systems, institutions of higher learning, and nonprofit organizations conducting exemplary programs in civics and government education and economic education in the United States;

(3) Home stays in United States communities;

(4) Translations and adaptations regarding the United States civics and government education and economic education curricular programs for students and teachers, and in the case of training programs for teachers translations and adaptations into forms useful in schools in eligible countries, and joint research projects in such areas;

(5) Translation of basic documents of United States constitutional government for use in eligible countries, such as *The Federalist Papers*, selected writings of Presidents Adams and Jefferson, and the Anti-Federalists, and more recent works on political theory, constitutional law and economics;

(6) Research and evaluation assistance to determine—

(i) The effects of educational programs on students' development of the knowledge, skills and traits of character essential for the preservation and improvement of constitutional democracy; and

(ii) Effective participation in and the preservation and improvement of an efficient market economy;

(b) Provide United States participants with—

(1) Seminars on the histories, economies, and governments of eligible countries;

(2) Visits to school systems, institutions of higher learning, and organizations conducting exemplary programs in civics and government education and economic education located in eligible countries;

(3) Home stays in eligible countries;

(4) Assistance from educators and scholars in eligible countries in the development of curricular materials on the history, government, and economies of such countries that are useful in United States classrooms;

(5) Opportunities to provide on-site demonstrations of United States curricula and pedagogy for educational leaders in eligible countries; and

(6) Research and evaluation assistance to determine—

(i) The effects of educational programs on students' development of the knowledge, skills, and traits of character essential for the preservation and

improvement of constitutional democracy; and

(ii) Effective participation in and improvement of an efficient market economy; and

(7) Educational programs which draw upon the experiences of emerging constitutional democracies that are created and implemented for United States students; and

(c) Assist participants from eligible countries and the United States in participating in international conferences on civics and government education and economic education. The primary participants in these conferences shall be leading educators in the areas of civics and government education and economic education, including curriculum and teacher training specialists, scholars in relevant disciplines, and educational policymakers, from the United States and eligible countries. Also, provide a means for the exchange of ideas and experiences in civics and government education and economic education among political, educational, and private sector leaders of participating eligible countries.

Note: For this program, the term "eligible country" means a Central European country, an Eastern European country, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Georgia, the Commonwealth of Independent States, and any country that formerly was a republic of the Soviet Union whose political independence is recognized in the United States.

*Selection Criteria:* The Secretary selects from the criteria in 34 CFR 700.30(e) to evaluate applications for new grants under this competition. Under 34 CFR 700.30(a), the Secretary will announce in the application package the evaluation criteria selected for this competition and the maximum weight assigned to each criterion.

*For Applications or Information Contact:* Dr. Ram N. Singh or Ms. Rita Foy, U.S. Department of Education, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Room 610, Washington, DC 20208-5573. Telephone: (202)-219-2079. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

Information about the Department's funding opportunities, including copies of application notices for discretionary grant competitions, can be viewed on the Department's electronic bulletin board (ED Board), telephone (202) 260-9950; on the Internet Gopher Server (at [gopher://gcs.ed.gov](http://gcs.ed.gov)); or on the World Wide Web (at <http://gcs.ed.gov>). However, the official application notice

for a discretionary grant competition is the notice published in the Federal Register.

*Program Authority:* 20 U.S.C. 5951.

*Dated:* February 21, 1997.

Marshall Smith,

*Acting Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement.*

[FR Doc. 97-4770 Filed 2-25-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

[CFDA No. 84.039D]

**Library Research and Demonstration—  
Demonstration of a Non-Profit  
Regional Social Tolerance Resource  
Center Operating Tolerance Tools and  
Prejudice Reduction Programs and  
Multimedia Tolerance and Genocide  
Exhibits; Notice Inviting Applications  
for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY)  
1997**

*Purpose of Program:* The Library Research and Demonstration Program provides grants to institutions of higher education and other public or private agencies, institutions, and organizations for research and demonstration programs related to the improvement of libraries, education in library and information science, the enhancement of library services through effective and efficient use of new technologies, and dissemination of information derived from such projects. For fiscal year (FY) 1997 the competition for new awards focuses on projects designed to meet the absolute priority specified in this notice.

*Eligible Applicants:* Institutions of higher education that meet the definition of eligibility under the terms of 20 U.S.C. 1141(a) and other public or private agencies, institutions, and organizations.

*Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:* April 30, 1997.

*Deadline for Intergovernmental Review:* June 30, 1997.

*Applications Available:* March 12, 1997.

*Available Funds:* \$1 million.

*Estimated Average Size of Awards:* \$1 million.

*Estimated Number of Awards:* One.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

*Project Period:* Up to 24 months.

*Applicable Regulations:* (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 82, 85, and 86; and (b) the regulations in 34 CFR part 700.

*Absolute Priority:* For fiscal year (FY) 1997 the Appropriations Act (P.L. 104-208) specifies that \$1,000,000 shall be

competitively awarded to a non-profit regional social tolerance resource center operating tolerance tools and prejudice reduction programs and multimedia tolerance and genocide exhibits.

Note: The Secretary funds only applications that meet all elements of this priority.

*Selection Criteria:* The Secretary selects from the criteria in 34 CFR 700.30(e) to evaluate applications for new grants under this competition. Under 34 CFR 700.30(a), the Secretary announces in the application package the evaluation criteria selected for this competition and the maximum weight assigned to each criterion.

*For Applications or Information Contact:* Chris Dunn, U.S. Department of Education, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Room 300, Washington, DC 20208-5571. Telephone (202) 219-2299. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

Information about the Department's funding opportunities, including copies of application notices for discretionary grant competitions, can be viewed on the Department's electronic bulletin board (ED Board), telephone (202) 260-9950; or on the Internet Gopher Server (at [gopher://gcs.ed.gov](http://gopher://gcs.ed.gov)); or on the World Wide Web (at <http://gcs.ed.gov>). However, the official application notice for a discretionary grant competition is the notice published in the Federal Register.

*Program Authority:* 20 U.S.C. 1033.

*Dated:* February 21, 1997.

Marshall S. Smith,

*Acting Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement.*

[FR Doc. 97-4769 Filed 2-25-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

**National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board; Meeting**

**AGENCY:** National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board; Education.

**ACTION:** Notice of Closed Committee Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the Nominating Committee of the National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board. Notice of this meeting is required under Section 10 (a) (2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. This document is intended to notify the general public of the meeting.

**DATE:** March 14, 1997.

**TIME:** 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Room 100, 80 F St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20208-7564.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Thelma Leenhouts, Designated Federal Official, National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board, 80 F St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20208-7564. Telephone: (202) 219-2065; fax: (202) 219-1528; e-mail: [Thelma\\_Leenhouts@ed.gov](mailto:Thelma_Leenhouts@ed.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board is authorized by Section 921 of the Educational Research, Development, Dissemination, and Improvement Act of 1994. The Board works collaboratively with the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Educational Research and Improvement to forge a national consensus with respect to a long-term agenda for educational research, development, and dissemination, and to provide advice and assistance to the Assistant Secretary in administering the duties of the Office.

The meeting of the Nominating Committee is closed to the public under the authority of Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463; 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2) and under exemptions (2) and (6) of Section 552b(c) of the Government in the Sunshine Act (Pub. L. 94-409; 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)). In preparing a slate of candidates for the position of chair, vice-chair, and members of the Executive Committee, the Committee will discuss matters that relate solely to the internal rules and practices of the Board and personal qualifications and experience of potential candidates for these positions, which would disclose information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy if conducted in open session.

A summary of the activities at the closed session and related matters which are informative to the public consistent with the policy of Title 5 U.S.C. 552b(c) will be available to the public within 14 days of the meeting.

Records are kept of all Board proceedings and are available for public inspection at the office of the National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board, 555 New Jersey Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20208-7564.

*Dated:* February 20, 1997.

Eve M. Bither,

*Executive Director.*

[FR Doc. 97-4764 Filed 2-25-97; 8:45 am]

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