

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Research, Education, and Economics

#### Notice of Strategic Planning Task Force Meeting

**AGENCY:** Research, Education, and Economics, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Department of Agriculture announces a meeting of the Strategic Planning Task Force on Research Facilities.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Strategic Planning Task Force on Research Facilities which consists of 15 members, have scheduled to meet for the second of eight planned meetings. The meeting is scheduled to be held at the Holiday Inn-University Park in Ft. Collins, Colorado, beginning at 1 p.m. on August 25 and concluding at 4 p.m. on August 27. The meeting will focus on what has transpired since the initial meeting on May 28–30, 1997, in Ames, Iowa, and what has been accomplished since. One day of the meeting will be spent touring various ARS, FS, and APHIS research facilities. At the first meeting, a draft agenda on ways to implement the charge of the Secretary was introduced and a format for subsequent meetings established.

**TIMES AND DATES:** August 25, 1997, 1 p.m.—8 p.m.; August 26, 1997, 8 a.m.—8 p.m.; and August 27, 1997, 8 a.m.—4 p.m.

**PLACE:** Holiday Inn—University Park, 425 W. Prospect Avenue, Ft. Collins, CO 80526.

**TYPE OF MEETING:** Open to the public.

**COMMENTS:** The public may file written comments before or after the meeting with the contact person listed below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mitch Geasler, Project Director, Strategic Planning Task Force on Research Facilities, Room 212–W, Jamie L. Whitten Building, USDA, 1400

Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250. Telephone (202) 720–3803.

Done at Washington, D.C. this 8th day of July 1997.

**Catherine E. Woteki,**

*Acting Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.*

[FR Doc. 97–18384 Filed 7–11–97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

#### Notice of Intent to Extend a Currently Approved Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR Part 1320 (60 FR 44977, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service's (CSREES) intention to request an extension for three years for a currently approved information collection in support of programs administered by CSREES's Higher Education Programs (HEP) unit. **DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by September 17, 1997 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS:** Contact Sally J. Rockey, Deputy Administrator, Competitive Research Grants and Awards Management, CSREES, USDA, STOP 2240, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250–2240; Telephone: (202) 401–1766; E-mail: OEP@reusda.gov.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* CSREES/Higher Education Grants Program.

*OMB Number:* 0524–0030.

*Expiration Date of Current Approval:* September 30, 1997.

*Type of Request:* Intent to extend a currently approved information collection for three years.

*Abstract:* The HEP unit of USDA/CSREES administers several

competitive, peer-reviewed research and teaching programs, under which grants of a high-priority nature are awarded. These programs are authorized pursuant to the authorities contained in the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.), section 1417(b)(1) for the Challenge Grants Program (7 U.S.C. 3152), section 1417(b)(4) for the Capacity Building Grants Program (7 U.S.C. 3152), section 1455 for the Hispanic-Serving Institutions Education Grants Program (7 U.S.C. 3241), and the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) for the Tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants Program.

The Challenge Grants Program is intended to assist colleges and universities in the United States in providing high quality educational programs in the food and agricultural sciences. The Capacity Building Grants Program is intended to strengthen the teaching and research capabilities of the sixteen 1890 historically black Land-Grant Institutions and Tuskegee University. The Hispanic-Serving Institutions Education Grants Program is intended to promote and strengthen the ability of Hispanic-Serving Institutions to carry out educational programs. The Tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants Program is intended to support projects that strengthen academic programs at the 1994 Land-Grant Institutions. All of these programs will, in turn, attract outstanding students and produce graduates capable of strengthening the Nation's food and agricultural scientific and professional work force.

Before awards can be made, certain information is required from applicants as part of an overall proposal package. In addition to project summaries, descriptions of the research or teaching efforts, literature reviews, curricula vitae of principal investigators, and other, relevant technical aspects of the proposed project, supporting documentation of an administrative and budgetary nature also must be provided. Because of the nature of the competitive, peer-reviewed process, it is important that information from applicants be available in a standardized format to ensure equitable treatment.

Each year, HEP solicitations are issued requesting proposals for various