

"in carrying out programs of educational and cultural exchange in countries whose people do not fully enjoy freedom and democracy", USIA "shall take appropriate steps to provide opportunities for participation in such programs to human rights and democracy leaders of such countries." Proposals should account for advancement of this goal in their program contents, to the full extent deemed feasible.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Guidelines

The College and University Partnership Program for Russian Regional Investment Initiative in Samara Oblast is limited to the following specific academic disciplines:

(1) Public administration—the Russian partner for this partnership must be Samara State Aerospace University's International Marketing Institute and the focus should be on developing training programs for civil servants;

(2) Business education—the Russian partner for this partnership must be the Togliatti Academy of Business and Banking.

Proposals must focus on curriculum, faculty, and staff development in one of these eligible disciplines. Administrative reform at the Russian partner should also be a project component.

Projects should involve the development of new academic programs or the building and/or restructuring of an existing program or programs, and should promote higher education's role in the transition to market economies and open democratic systems. Feasibility studies to plan partnerships will not be considered.

Whenever feasible, participants should make their training and personnel resources, as well as results of their collaborative research, available to government, NGOs, and business.

Participating institutions should exchange faculty and/or staff members for teaching/lecturing and consulting.

U.S. institutions are responsible for the submission of proposals and should collaborate with their foreign partners in planning and preparing proposals. U.S. and foreign partner institutions are encouraged to consult about the proposed project with USIA E/ASU staff in Washington, DC. Preference will be given to proposals which demonstrate evidence of previous relations with the foreign partner institution(s).

Guidelines

U.S. Partner and Participant Eligibility

In the U.S., participation in the program is open to accredited two- and four-year colleges and universities, including graduate schools. Applications from consortia of U.S. colleges and universities are eligible. Applications from non-profit service and professional organizations or non-governmental organizations proposing to facilitate a partnership between a U.S. university and a foreign partner are also eligible. The lead U.S. institution in the consortium is responsible for submitting the application and each application from a consortium must document the lead school's stated authority to represent the consortium. Participants representing the U.S. institution who are traveling under USIA grant funds must be faculty, staff, or advanced graduate students from the participating institution(s) and must be citizens.

Foreign Partner and Participant Eligibility

Overseas, participation is limited to the following institutions:

Samara State Aerospace University's International Marketing Institute—in the field of public administration; Togliatti Academy of Business and Banking—in the field of business education.

Participants representing the foreign institutions must be faculty, staff or advanced students of the partner institution, and be citizens, nationals, or permanent residents of the country of the foreign partner, and be qualified to hold a valid passport and U.S. J-1 visa.

Ineligibility

A proposal will be deemed technically ineligible if:

- (1) It does not fully adhere to the guidelines established herein and in the Solicitation Package;
- (2) It is not received by the deadline;
- (3) It is not submitted by the U.S. partner;
- (4) One of the partner institutions is ineligible;
- (5) The academic discipline(s) is/are not listed as eligible in the RFP, herein;
- (6) The amount requested of USIA exceeds \$150,000 for the two-year project.

Please refer to program-specific guidelines (POGI) in the Solicitation Package for further details.

Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFP are binding and may not be modified by any USIA representative. Explanatory information provided by the Agency that contradicts published

language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. The Agency reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Notification

Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal USIA procedures.

Dated: May 14, 1998.

Robert L. Earle,

Deputy Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Advisory Committee on Women Veterans, Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs gives notice under Public Law 92-463 that a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Women Veterans will be held on June 16-19, 1998, at the Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Secretary of Veterans Affairs regarding the needs of women veterans with respect to health care, rehabilitation, compensation, outreach and other programs, and activities administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs designed to meet such needs. The Committee will make recommendations to the Secretary regarding such activities.

On June 16, 17 and 18, the sessions will convene from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on June 19, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Committee will meet in conference room 230, at VA Central Office. All sessions will be open to the public. It will be necessary for those wishing to attend to contact Ms. Maryanne Carson, Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC (phone 202-273-6193) prior to June 5, 1998. A tentative agenda follows:

Tuesday, June 16, 1998

- 9:00 am Introduction of new members—Chair/Vice Chair
- 9:15 am Opening remarks: Secretary Togo D. West, Jr.
- 10:00 am Briefing: Under Secretary for Benefits
- 10:30 am Break

10:45 am Briefing: Director, Readjustment Service
 11:15 am Briefing: Acting Director, National Cemetery System
 11:45 am Briefing: Veterans Service Organizations Liaison
 12:15 pm Lunch
 1:30 pm Briefing: Under Secretary for Health
 2:00 pm Briefing: Center for Veterans Analysis & Statistics
 2:30 pm Briefing: DAS for Congressional Affairs
 3:00 pm Break
 3:15 pm Briefing: Chief, Network Officer
 3:45 pm Briefing: DAS Public Affairs
 4:15 pm Advisory Committee on Women Veterans, Chair/Vice Chair

Wednesday, June 17, 1998

8:00 am Advisory Committee on Women Veterans, Chair/Vice Chair
 8:30 am Report: Women Veterans Health Status, Dr. Katherine Skinner

9:30 am Briefing: Assistant Secretary Veteran's Employment & Training, DOL
 10:00 am Briefing: Regional Administrator, Women's Bureau, DOL
 10:15 am Break
 11:00 am Update: Women Veteran Health Program
 11:30 am Update: Persian Gulf Illness & Research Initiatives on Women
 12 noon Lunch
 1:00 pm Report: Barriers to Care, Dr. Jessica Wolfe
 1:30 pm Update: Veterans Benefits Initiatives
 2:00 pm Site Visit: Women's Memorial

Thursday, June 18, 1998

8:30 am
 Breakout: Subcommittee Working Groups
 Legislative—conference room 732
 Health Care—conference room 742
 1:00 pm
 Executive Session

Reports: Subcommittee Working Groups
 Discussion: 1998 Report of Advisory Committee
 Discussion: Network Strategic Plan Summary 1998–2002

Friday, June 19, 1998

9:00 am
 Executive Session
 Discussion: Survey of Veterans Report
 Discussion: Site Visit fall 1998
 Side Visits Reports
 Wrap Up
 1:00 pm Adjourn
 Dated: May 14, 1998.
 By Direction of the Secretary.

Heyward Bannister,

Committee Management Officer.

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