

included in the pilot project. If you are an applicant under the Title III, Part A Programs, you may submit your application to us in either electronic or paper format.

The pilot project involves the use of the Electronic Grant Application System (e-Application) portion of the Grant Administration and Payment System (GAPS). Users of e-Application will be entering data on-line while completing their applications. You may not e-mail a grant application to us. If you participate in this voluntary pilot project by submitting an application electronically, the data you enter on-line will be saved into a database. We request your participation in e-Application. We shall continue to evaluate its success and solicit suggestions for improvement.

If you participate in e-Application, please note the following:

- Your participation is voluntary.
- You will not receive any additional point value because you submit a grant application in electronic format, nor will we penalize you if you submit an application in paper format. When you enter the e-Application system, you will find information about its hours of operation.

- You may submit all documents electronically, including the Application for Federal Assistance (ED 424), Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs (ED 524), and all necessary assurances and certifications.

- After you electronically submit your application, you will receive an automatic acknowledgement, which will include a PR/Award number (an identifying number unique to your application).

- Within three working days after submitting your electronic application, fax a signed copy of the Application for Federal Assistance (ED 424) to the Application Control Center after following these steps:

(1) Print ED 424 from the e-Application system.

(2) The institution's Authorizing Representative must sign this form.

(3) Place the PR/Award number in the upper right hand corner of the hard copy signature page of the ED 424.

(4) Fax the signed ED 424 to the Application Control Center at (202) 260-1349.

- We may request that you give us original signatures on all other forms at a later date.

- **Closing Date Extension in Case of System Unavailability:** If you elect to participate in the e-Application pilot for the Title III, Part A Programs and you are prevented from submitting your application on the closing date because

the e-Application system is unavailable, we will grant you an extension of one business day in order to transmit your application electronically, by mail, or by hand delivery. For us to grant this extension—

(1) You must be a registered user of e-Application, and have initiated an e-Application for this competition; and

(2)(a) The e-Application system must be unavailable for 60 minutes or more between the hours of 8:30 and 3:30 p.m., Washington, DC time, on the deadline date; or

(b) The e-Application system must be unavailable for any period of time during the last hour of operation (that is, for any period of time between 3:30 and 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time) on the deadline date. The Department must acknowledge and confirm these periods of unavailability before granting you an extension. To request this extension you must contact either (1) the person listed elsewhere in this notice under *For Applications and Further Information Contact* or (2) the e-GRANTS help desk at 1-888-336-8930.

You may access the electronic grant application for the Title III, Part A Programs at: <http://e-grants.ed.gov>

We have included additional information about the e-Application pilot project (see Parity Guidelines between Paper and Electronic Applications) in the application package.

For Applications and Further Information Contact: Darlene B. Collins, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW, 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20006-8513. Telephone: (202) 502-7777 or via Internet: darlene.collins@ed.gov

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the program contact person listed under *For Applications and Further Information Contact*.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain a copy of the application package in an alternative format by contacting that person. However, the Department is not able to reproduce in an alternative format the standard forms included in the application package.

Electronic Access to This Document

You may view this document, as well as all other Department of Education documents published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet

at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister>

To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site. If you have questions about using PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), toll free, at 1-888-293-6498; or in the Washington, DC, area at (202) 512-1530.

Note: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/index.html>.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1057-1059d.

Dated: January 28, 2003.

Sally L. Stroup,

Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation; Meeting

AGENCY: National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation, Department of Education.

What Is the Purpose of This Notice?

The purpose of this notice is to announce the upcoming meeting of the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation. Parts of this meeting will be open to the public, and the public is invited to attend those portions.

When and Where Will the Meeting Take Place?

We will hold the public meeting on March 13, 2003 beginning at 9:30 a.m. in Plaza C at The Ritz-Carlton Hotel at Pentagon City, 1250 South Hayes Street, Arlington, VA 22202. You may call the hotel at (703) 415-5000 or fax the hotel at (703) 415-5061 to inquire about room accommodations.

What Assistance Will Be Provided to Individuals With Disabilities?

The meeting site is accessible to individuals with disabilities. If you will need an auxiliary aid or service to participate in the meeting (e.g., interpreting service, assistive listening device, or materials in an alternate format) notify the contact person listed in this notice at least two weeks before the scheduled meeting date. Although we will attempt to meet a request received after that date, we may not be able to make available the requested

auxiliary aid or service because of insufficient time to arrange it.

Who Is the Contact Person for the Meeting?

Please contact Ms. Bonnie LeBold, the Executive Director of the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation, if you have questions about the meeting. You may contact her at the U.S. Department of Education, room 7007, MS 7563, 1990 K St. NW., Washington, DC 20006, telephone: (202) 219-7009, fax: (202) 219-7008, e-mail:

Bonnie.LeBold@ed.gov.

Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

What Are the Functions of the National Committee?

The National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation was established by the Secretary of Education under section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended. The Committee's responsibilities are to:

- Evaluate the standards of accreditation applied to applicant foreign medical schools; and
- Determine the comparability of those standards to standards for accreditation applied to United States medical schools.

What Items Will Be on the Agenda for Discussion at the Meeting?

The National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation will review the standards of accreditation applied to medical schools by several foreign countries to determine whether those standards are comparable to the standards of accreditation applied to medical schools in the United States. Discussions of the standards of accreditation will be held in sessions open to the public. Discussions that focus on specific determinations of comparability are closed to the public in order that each country may be properly notified of the decision. The countries tentatively scheduled to be discussed at the meeting include Australia/New Zealand, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Hungary, India, Ireland, Pakistan, the Philippines, Saba, and St. Lucia. Beginning February 24, you may call the contact person listed above to obtain the final listing of the countries whose standards will be discussed during this meeting. The listing of countries will also be posted on the Department of Education's Web site at the following address: <http://>

www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/ncfmea/ncfmeetings.html.

How May I Obtain Electronic Access to This Document?

You may view this document, as well as all other Department of Education documents published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister>.

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Authority: 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2.

Dated: January 27, 2003.

Sally L. Stroup,

Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Arbitration Panel Decision Under the Randolph-Sheppard Act

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of arbitration panel decision under the Randolph-Sheppard Act.

SUMMARY: The Department gives notice that on November 30, 2001, an arbitration panel rendered a decision in the matter of *California Department of Rehabilitation Services v. United States Postal Service (Docket No. R-S/00-4)*. This panel was convened by the U.S. Department of Education under 20 U.S.C. 107d-1(b), after the Department received a complaint filed by petitioner, the California Department of Rehabilitation Services.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under section 6(c) of the Randolph-Sheppard Act (the Act), 20 U.S.C. 107d-2(c), the Secretary publishes in the **Federal Register** a synopsis of each arbitration panel decision affecting the administration of vending facilities on Federal and other property.

Background

This dispute concerns the alleged improper denial by the United States

Postal Service (USPS) of the request of the California Department of Rehabilitation Services, the State licensing agency (SLA), to establish a Randolph-Sheppard vending facility at the Long Beach Processing and Distribution Center in Long Beach, California, in violation of the satisfactory site provisions of the Act (20 U.S.C. 107 *et seq.*) and the implementing regulations in 34 CFR part 395.

A summary of the facts is as follows: In February 1997, the SLA submitted a proposal to USPS to establish a Randolph-Sheppard vending facility by combining the food service facility at the Long Beach Processing and Distribution Center with nine satellite locations. A permit agreement was entered into between the SLA and USPS. In reliance upon the signed permit agreement, the SLA purchased vending machines and other equipment in the amount of \$181,000.

Additionally, a blind vendor was assigned to the vending facility and route. The blind vendor invested in storage space and hired an assistant to help him service the vending route.

In September 1997, the Manager for Corporate Personnel Management at USPS Headquarters in Washington, DC, became aware of the permit agreement with the SLA to provide food service at the Long Beach Processing and Distribution Center and the nine satellite locations. Subsequently, USPS asserted that the permit agreement violated USPS policies concerning the establishment of vending services operated by the blind. According to USPS, the blind vendor had to be physically present at each vending route where food service was being provided. In the absence of having a blind vendor present at each location, USPS required that the SLA pay USPS \$8,400 in service fees. The SLA objected to the payment of service fees and to the directive from USPS Headquarters to terminate the satellite vending routes as a violation of the terms of the permit agreement signed by the SLA and USPS.

As a result of this dispute, the SLA requested the Secretary of Education to convene a Federal arbitration panel to hear this complaint. A panel was convened, and a hearing on this matter was held on May 4, 2001.

Arbitration Panel Decision

After considering the evidence presented, the panel concluded that USPS had entered into a permit agreement with the SLA in February 1997. The panel further determined that the permit agreement at the Long Beach Processing and Distribution Center