DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Sea Grant Advisory Board

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

ACTION: Notice of solicitation for nominations for potential National Sea Grant Advisory Board members and notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice responds to Section 209 of the Sea Grant Program Improvement Act of 1976 (Pub. L. 94–461, 33 U.S.C. 1128), which requires the Secretary of Commerce to solicit nominations at least once a year for membership on the National Sea Grant Advisory Board, a Federal Advisory Committee that provides advice on the implementation of the National Sea Grant College Program. To apply for membership to the Advisory Board applicants should submit a current resume as indicated in the ADDRESSES section. A cover letter highlighting specific areas of expertise relevant to the purpose of the Board is helpful, but not required. NOAA is an equal opportunity employer.

This notice also sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the National Sea Grant Advisory Board. Board members will discuss and provide advice on the National Sea Grant College Program in the areas of program evaluation, strategic planning, education and extension, science and technology programs, and other matters as described in the agenda found on the National Sea Grant College Program Web site at http://seagrant.noaa.gov/WhoWeAre/Leadership/NationalSeaGrantAdvisoryBoard/AdvisoryBoardUpcomingMeetings.aspx.

DATES: Solicitation of nominations is open ended. Resumes may be sent to the address specified at any time. The announced meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 23, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST and Tuesday, September 24, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST.

Individuals Selected For Federal Advisory Committee Membership: Upon selection and agreement to serve on the National Sea Grant Advisory Board, you become a Special Government Employee (SGE) of the United States Government. 18 U.S.C. 202(a) an SGE(s) is an officer or employee of an agency who is retained, designated, appointed, or employed to perform temporary duties, with or without compensation, not to exceed 130 days during any period of 365 consecutive days, either on a fulltime or intermittent basis. Please be aware that after the selection process is complete, applicants selected to serve on the Board must complete the following actions before they can be appointed as a Board member:

(a) Security Clearance (on-line Background Security Check process and fingerprinting conducted through NOAA Workforce Management); and (b) Confidential Financial Disclosure Report—As an SGE, you are required to file a Confidential Financial Disclosure Report to avoid involvement in a real or apparent conflict of interest. You may find the Confidential Financial Disclosure Report at the following Web site. http://www.oge.gov_Forms-Library/OGE-Form-450-Confidential-Financial-Disclosure-Report/.

ADDRESSES: Nominations should be sent to Ms. Elizabeth Ban, Designated Federal Officer, National Sea Grant College Program, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 11853, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, (301) 734–1082.

The September meeting will be held at Stone Laboratory, 878 Bayview Avenue, Put-in-Bay, Ohio 43456.

Status: The meeting will be open to public participation with a 15-minute public comment period on Tuesday, September 24 at 1:30 p.m. (check agenda on Web site to confirm time).

The Board expects that public statements presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously submitted verbal or written statements. In general, each individual or group making a verbal presentation will be limited to a total time of three (3) minutes. Written comments should be received by the Designated Federal Officer by Monday, September 16, 2013 to provide sufficient time for the Board review. Written comments received after Monday, September 16, 2013 will be distributed to the Board, but may not be reviewed prior to the meeting date. Seats will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Elizabeth Ban, Designated Federal Officer, National Sea Grant College Program, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 11853; Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, (301) 734–1082.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Established by Section 209 of the Act and amended the National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of
2008 (Pub. L. 110–394), the duties of the Board are as follows:

1. In general. The Board shall advise the Secretary and the Director concerning:

   (A) Strategies for utilizing the sea grant college program to address the Nation’s highest priorities regarding the understanding, assessment, development, management, utilization, and conservation of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources;
   (B) The designation of sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes; and
   (C) Such other matters as the Secretary refers to the Board for review and advice.

2. Biennial Report. The Board shall report to the Congress every two years on the state of the national sea grant college program. The Board shall indicate in each such report the progress made toward meeting the priorities identified in the strategic plan in effect under section 204(c). The Secretary shall make available to the Board such information, personnel, and administrative services and assistance as it may reasonably require to carry out its duties under this title. The Secretary shall make available to the Board such information, personnel, and administrative services and assistance as it may reasonably require to carry out its duties.

The Board shall consist of 15 voting members who shall be appointed by the Secretary. The Director and a director of a Sea Grant program who is elected by the various directors of Sea Grant programs shall serve as nonvoting members of the Board. Not less than 8 of the voting members of the Board shall be individuals who, by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in one or more of the disciplines and fields included in marine science. The other voting members shall be individuals who, by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in, or representative of, education, marine affairs and resource management, coastal management, extension services, State government, industry, economics, planning, or any other activity which is appropriate to, and important for, any effort to enhance the understanding, assessment, development, management, utilization, or conservation of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. No individual is eligible to be a voting member of the Board if the individual is (A) the director of a Sea Grant college or Sea Grant institute; (B) an applicant for, or a beneficial owner of, a grant or contract (determined by the Secretary) of, any grant or contract under section 205 [33 USCS § 1124]; or (C) a full-time officer or employee of the United States.

The Director of the National Sea Grant College Program and one Director of a Sea Grant Program also serve as nonvoting members. Board members are appointed for a 4-year term.

Special Accommodations: These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Elizabeth Ban, Designated Federal Office at 301–734–1082 by Monday, September 16, 2013.

Jason Donaldson,
Chief Financial Officer/Chief Administrative Officer, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
ConnectED Workshop

AGENCY: National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Open Meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) will convene a meeting of stakeholders from the education, technology, and government sectors to share ideas, discuss policies and consider promising strategies for equipping K–12 schools for digital learning.

The ConnectED Workshop will discuss the growing bandwidth needs of K–12 schools as more schools use mobile devices to enrich the learning experience; as teachers increasingly integrate Web video and other digital content into the curriculum; and as classroom management software tools move everything from homework assignments to testing into the cloud. The workshop will explore possible strategies to connect virtually all of our students to next-generation broadband in a timely, cost-effective way. It will also share promising practices, from NTIA’s Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) and State Broadband Initiative (SBI); the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Utilities Service’s Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP), Broadband Loan Program, Community Connect Program, and Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program; and the U.S. Department of Education.

The meeting will be open to the public and press. Due to the limited number of seats, attendance at the workshop will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Attendees may pre-register for the Workshop, but pre-registration does not guarantee the availability of seating. Information on how to pre-register for the meeting will be available on NTIA’s Web site (www.ntia.doc.gov). NTIA will ask registrants to provide their first and last names and email addresses for both registration purposes and to receive any updates on the ConnectED Workshop.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: President Obama recently set an ambitious goal to connect practically all American students to ultra-fast broadband within five years. The President’s ConnectED initiative would bring next-generation Internet speeds to K–12 schools across the nation. See ConnectED: President Obama’s Plan for Connecting All Schools to the Digital Age, available at http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files-docs/connected_fact_sheet.pdf. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) also recently launched a proceeding to overhaul and update the federal E-Rate program, which funds Internet access in schools and libraries. See In the Matter of Modernizing the E-rate Program for Schools and Libraries, WC Docket No. 13–184, Notice of Proposed Rule Making (rel. July 23, 2013). To help inform these efforts, NTIA will convene stakeholders from the education, technology, and government sectors to share ideas, discuss policies and consider the most promising strategies for equipping K–12 schools for digital learning.

The ConnectED Workshop will be held in the Gallery (located on the lobby level) of the American Institute of Architects headquarters, located at 1735 New York Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20006.