

maximum score for each criterion or factor under that criterion is indicated in parentheses.

**(1) Significance.** (10 points)

In determining the significance of the proposed project, the following factor is considered: The potential contribution of the proposed project to increased knowledge or understanding of educational problems, issues, or effective strategies.

**(2) Quality of the project design.** (30 points)

In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the following factors are considered:

(a) The extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved by the proposed project are clearly specified and measurable. (10)

(b) The extent to which the design of the proposed project is appropriate to, and will successfully address, the needs of the target population or other identified needs. (5)

(c) The extent to which the proposed project represents an exceptional approach to the priority or priorities established for the competition. (15)

**(3) Adequacy of resources.** (10 points)

In determining the adequacy of resources for the proposed project, the following factor is considered: The extent to which the costs are reasonable in relation to the objectives, design, and potential significance of the proposed project.

**(4) Quality of management plan.** (25 points)

In determining the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, the following factors are considered.

(a) The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks. (5)

(b) The adequacy of mechanisms for ensuring high-quality products and services from the proposed project, including qualifications and experience of key personnel in writing and editing newsletters for education, prevention and related fields. (10)

(c) The extent to which the time commitments of the project director and principal investigator and other key project personnel are appropriate and adequate to meet the objectives of the proposed project. (5)

(d) How the applicant will ensure that a diversity of perspectives are brought to

bear in the operation of the proposed project, including those of students, faculty, parents, the business community, a variety of disciplinary and professional fields, recipients or beneficiaries of services, or others, as appropriate. (5)

**(5) Quality of project evaluation.** (25 points)

In determining the quality of the evaluation, the following factors are considered:

(a) The extent to which the evaluation plan provides for an ongoing evaluation of the effectiveness of *The Challenge* newsletter, and its impact on the intended audience. (10)

(b) The extent to which the evaluation results will be used for continuous improvement of *The Challenge*. (5)

(c) The extent to which the methods of evaluation are appropriate to the context within which the project operates. (5)

(d) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assignment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes. (5)

**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 government for coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance.

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

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**Program Authority:** 20 U.S.C. 7131. (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 84.184P Office of Elementary and Secondary Education—Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities National Programs—Federal Activities—*The Challenge* Newsletter)

Dated: January 19, 2000.

**Michael Cohen,**

*Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education.*

[FR Doc. 00-1726 Filed 1-24-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-M**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**[CFDA No.: 84.037]**

**Office of Student Financial Assistance;  
Federal Perkins and National Direct  
Student Loan Programs**

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of the Federal Perkins Loan and National Direct Student Loan Programs Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools for Teacher Cancellation Benefits for the 1999-2000 School Year.

**SUMMARY:** We are announcing that the 1999-2000 Federal Perkins Loan and National Direct Student Loan Programs Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools (The Directory) is now available on the Department of Education's (the Department's) Web site. Under the Federal Perkins Loan and National Direct Student Loan programs, a borrower may have repayment of his or her loan deferred and a portion of his or her loan canceled if the borrower teaches full-time for a complete academic year in a designated elementary or secondary school having a high concentration of students from low-income families. In the 1999-2000 Directory, we list, on a State-by-State and Territory-by-Territory basis, the schools in which a borrower may teach during the 1999-2000 school year to qualify for deferment and cancellation benefits.

**DATES:** The Directory is currently available at the Department's Web site.

**ADDRESSES:** You may obtain information concerning specific schools listed in the Directory from Chrissa Allen, Systems Administration Branch, Campus-Based Programs Systems Division, Office of Student Financial Assistance, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., (Portals Building, Room 6200), Washington, D.C. 20202-5447, Telephone (202) 708-7738. You may

obtain information concerning deferment and cancellation of a National Direct or Federal Perkins loan from Gail McLarnon, Program Specialist, Product Development Division, Office of Student Financial Assistance, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., (Regional Office Building 3, Room 3045), Washington, D.C. 20202-5447, Telephone (202) 708-8242. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Directories are also available in an electronic format at (1) each institution of higher education participating in the Federal Perkins Loan Program, (2) each of the fifty-seven (57) State and Territory Departments of Education, (3) each of the major Federal Perkins Loan billing services, and (4) the U.S. Department of Education, including its regional offices. Individuals with disabilities may obtain this notice in an alternate format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) by contacting the Alternate Format Center at (202) 260-9895 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We select schools that qualify a borrower for deferment and cancellation benefits under the procedures contained in the Federal Perkins Loan Program regulations in 34 CFR 674.53, 674.54 and 674.55.

We have determined that, for the 1999-2000 academic year, full-time teaching in the schools set forth in the 1999-2000 Directory qualifies a borrower for deferment and cancellation benefits.

We are providing the Directory to each institution participating in the Federal Perkins Loan Program in an electronic format only. Borrowers and other interested parties may check the Web site or their lending institution, the appropriate State or Territory Department of Education, a regional office of the Department of Education, or contact us directly at the Office of Student Financial Assistance concerning the identity of qualifying schools for the 1999-2000 academic year. We retain, on a permanent basis, copies of past Directories.

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Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at either of the following sites:

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**Program Authority:** 20 U.S.C. 1087aa-1087ii and 20 U.S.C. 421-429, unless otherwise noted.

Dated: January 19, 2000.

**Greg Woods,**

*Chief Operating Officer, Office of Student Financial Assistance.*

[FR Doc. 00-1727 Filed 1-24-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Solicitation for Expressions of Interest; Low-Cost Prototype Inverters

**AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of Solicitation for Participation in Competition to Create Low-Cost Inverters.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), in partnership with the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO), the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), and other sponsors announces an opportunity for qualified colleges and university engineering programs to submit proposals to compete for a cash prize for funds to build prototype, low-cost inverters, in a contest titled the 2001 Future Energy Challenge. This competition is open to schools with ABET-accredited engineering programs or the equivalent.

**DATES:** Additional information on this competition and application requirements will be mailed beginning February 1, 2000, with a due date for receipt of application requirements of April 3, 2000. Schools selected to compete in the 2001 Future Energy Challenge will be notified by May 1, 2000. The competition will be scheduled for late May or early June 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** If your school is interested in receiving an application requirements

package for the 2001 Future Energy Challenge, complete the attached form and fax or mail it to the address on the form. You can also e-mail your response to: [samuel.biondo@hq.doe.gov](mailto:samuel.biondo@hq.doe.gov). Be sure to include all the information requested on the form or in your e-mail message. The application requirements package will also provide information on how you might qualify for seed money from other sponsors. (Note: The agency or organization providing the seed money will solicit and evaluate the application requirements for seed funding, not DOE.)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The 2001 Future Energy Challenge seeks to dramatically improve the design and reduce the cost of DC-AC inverters and interface systems for use in distributed generation systems. DOE is joining with NASEO, and possibly others, to sponsor this competition with the goal of making these interface systems practical and cost effective. The objectives are to design elegant, manufacturable systems that would reduce the costs of commercial interface systems by at least 50% and, thereby, accelerate the deployment of distributed generation systems in homes and buildings. Schools with the capability to undertake the challenging task of designing complete systems or modifying commercial inverters to achieve design and manufacturability improvements that lead to cost reductions of 50% or better are invited to submit proposals to DOE to compete. Schools may elect to compete in one of three classes: an engineering design study class that involves a thorough design, analysis, cost, and simulation study; a scale prototype class in which hardware is built and demonstrated at a fraction of the target power level; and a full prototype class that leads to a comprehensive hardware system. Schools should plan to form multi-disciplinary teams to address the energy source characteristics (selected from fuel cells, solar panels, or other direct energy conversion devices), design the power electronics, design packaging and thermal management systems, develop filtering and other interface subsystems, analyze process costs and manufacturability, and perform economic and life-cycle cost analyses.

The hardware prototypes judged as best will be tested by fuel cell manufacturers, at DOE energy technology centers, or at national laboratory facilities as interfaces for a fuel cell source. The school with the most cost-effective, fully functional design that can meet the aggressive cost target will win a prize of at least