

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.

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Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1101-1101d, 1103-1103g.

Dated: February 6, 2003.

Sally L. Stroup,

Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act; Public Hearing

AGENCY: Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice includes the schedule and proposed agenda of the upcoming public hearing regarding proposals for the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA). The Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE) invites comments from the public regarding proposals for amending and extending the HEA. The meeting will take place in Kansas City, Missouri during the annual Federal Student Aid Spring Update meeting.

Assistance to Individuals with Disabilities at the Public Meeting

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 under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** no later than Wednesday, February 26, 2003. Although we will attempt to meet a request we receive after that date, we may not be able to make available the requested auxiliary aid or service because of insufficient time to arrange it.

DATES: Friday, March 7, 2003.

Location: Westin Crown Center, Century Ballroom, One Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO, 64108.

Times: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Meeting Format: This meeting will be held according to the following schedule:

1. Time: 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
2. Time: 1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

Attendees: If you would like to attend the meeting listed above, we ask that you register with the Office of Postsecondary Education by e-mail or fax to the address listed under **ADDRESSES**. Please provide us with your name and contact information.

Participants: The hearing will begin with panels of invited speakers. After the presentations by the invited speakers, there will be time for comments from the public.

If you are interested in participating in the public comment period, we request that you reserve time on the agenda of the hearing by contacting the Office of Postsecondary Education by e-mail or fax. Please include your name, the organization you represent if appropriate, and a brief description of the issue you would like to present. Participants will be allowed approximately three to five minutes to present their comments, depending on the number of individuals who reserve time on the agenda. At the hearing, participants are also encouraged to submit two written copies of their comments. Persons interested in making comments are encouraged to address the issues and questions discussed under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

Given the expected number of individuals interested in providing comments at the hearing, reservations for presenting comments should be made as soon as possible. However, please submit your reservation to comment at the hearing no later than February 28, 2003. Requests to speak during the public comment period of

the hearing will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Persons who are unable to obtain reservations to speak during the meeting are encouraged to submit written comments. Written comments will be accepted at the meeting site or may be mailed to the Office of Postsecondary Education at the address listed under **ADDRESSES**.

ADDRESSES: Submit all requests to reserve time on the agenda or to submit written comments to OPE using one of the following methods:

1. **E-mail.** We encourage you to submit your request to reserve time on the agenda or written comments through the Internet to the following address: HEA.2004@ed.gov.

2. **Facsimile.** You may submit your request to reserve time on the agenda by facsimile at (202) 502-7875.

3. **Mail.** You may submit your written comments to Jeffrey R. Andrade, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning, and Innovation, Office of Postsecondary Education, 1990 K Street, NW., Room 8046, Washington, DC 20006. **ATTENTION:** HEA Reauthorization. Due to delays in mail delivery caused by heightened security, please allow adequate time for the mail to be received.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To obtain additional information about the hearing, please contact Amy Raaf at (202) 502-7561 or Dan Iannicola, Jr. at (202) 502-7719 or via Internet: amy.raaf@ed.gov, dan.iannicola@ed.gov.

To obtain additional information about hotel reservations and the agenda for the Federal Student Aid Spring Update meeting, visit Federal Student Aid's Web site at: <http://edeworkshop.ncspearson.com/KansasCity.htm>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As the 108th Congress begins to hold hearings on reauthorization of the Higher Education Act and the Administration begins to work on its proposals for amending the HEA, we are interested in hearing from the higher education community and other members of the public about ways to ensure that the significant amounts of funding for the programs authorized in the HEA are wisely spent. We are also looking to build upon successful program results in providing access to students, maintaining high levels of student retention in higher education programs and improving the quality of postsecondary education.

Many of the programs authorized under the HEA work well and provide