

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 22-06
	DATE February 14, 2007

TO: ALL STATE WORKFORCE AGENCY ADMINISTRATORS
ALL STATE WORKFORCE LIAISONS
ALL STATE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD CHAIRS
AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

FROM: EMILY STOVER DeROCCO /s/
Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: Announcing the 2007 Recognition of Excellence Application Process

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is pleased to announce the opening of the Recognition of Excellence (ROE) application process for 2007. This initiative was established in 2004 to recognize high performance employment and training-related programs and superior or improved system performance by entities administering and partnering with ETA-funded programs. The Recognition of Excellence is an important opportunity to honor programs that have achieved commendable outcomes as well as facilitate the exponential replication of innovative practices throughout the workforce investment system.

ETA is now requesting applications from which honorees will be selected and showcased at the 2007 Workforce Innovations conference to be held July 17-19 in Kansas City, Missouri. At the Workforce Innovations conference, thousands of workforce investment professionals from across the nation will be able to learn about the successful practices of the honorees. *The initiatives are selected for recognition, not a monetary award.*

Honorees in five separate categories will be recognized:

- ❖ *Educating America's 21st Century Workforce*
- ❖ *Building an Industry/Business-Driven Workforce Investment System*
- ❖ *Leveraging the Power of e³ Partnerships*
- ❖ *Recognizing Special Populations in the Workforce*
- ❖ *Serving Out-of-School Youth*

Honorees will be selected based on an application package that demonstrates that the project, program or initiative is innovative, collaborative, and resulted in positive performance outcomes; linked to occupations in demand; contributed to economic development and community benefit; and is replicable.

This recognition supports the Department of Labor's goals of ensuring:

- 1) A Prepared Workforce: Developing a prepared workforce by providing effective training and support services to new and incumbent workers and supplying high-quality information on the economy and labor market;
- 2) A Competitive Workforce: Meeting the competitive labor demands of the worldwide economy by enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the workforce development and regulatory systems that assist workers and employers in meeting the challenges of global competition;
- 3) Strengthened Economic Protections: Protecting and strengthening worker economic security through effective and efficient provisions of unemployment insurance and workers' compensation; ensuring union transparency; and securing pension and health benefits.

Any state or local program, project or initiative, including those of national program grantees, funded through ETA or in which an ETA-funded activity is one integral component, may apply. In addition to employment and training entities funded directly by ETA, eligible applicants for ROE may include universities, community colleges, businesses or other organizations that receive ETA funds or partner with an ETA-funded entity in the recommended program, project or initiative. The program, project or initiative must have been operational for at least twelve (12) months and at some point in time within the last two program years (the current program year and/or the previous program year, from July 2005 to present). The program, project or initiative may not have been recognized as an ROE winner in a previous year.

Selected ROE honorees will be recognized at a plenary session during the 2007 Workforce Innovations conference and will be asked to participate in a workshop. Honorees will receive an engraved commemorative symbol and four (4) free registrations to the conference, including a free registration for a program participant. Up to two (2) additional honorees in each category will receive an engraved plaque and one free registration to the Workforce Innovations conference.

Applications must be submitted **electronically** by 5:00 p.m. EST on March 30, 2007. Applications received after that date will not be considered. If you have questions about the system of recognition or the application process, view the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on the ROE website or contact the ROE coordinator, Anissa Holm, by e-mail at: [**holm.anissa@dol.gov**](mailto:holm.anissa@dol.gov) or by phone at: (202) 693-3163.

Action: To learn more about last year's Recognition of Excellence presentations, honorees, recognized programs, and the application process for 2007, visit our website at: [**http://roe.doleta.gov/**](http://roe.doleta.gov/).

For information on the 2007 Workforce Innovations conference, please visit: [**www.workforceinnovations.org**](http://www.workforceinnovations.org).