

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT NOTICE	NO. 25-07
	DATE January 16, 2008

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

FROM: DOUGLAS F. SMALL /s/
Deputy Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: Announcing the 2008 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 2008. 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 ROE 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 Workforce Innovations Conference to be held July 15-17, 2008, in New Orleans, Louisiana. There, thousands of workforce investment professionals from across the nation will be able to learn about the successful practices of the honorees. ***The honorees are selected solely for recognition, not a monetary award.***

This year's categories and selection criteria have changed to reflect the continually evolving trends, emphases, service delivery, and training capabilities of the workforce investment system. The new and revised categories are:

- ❖ ***Educating America's Workforce to Serve Emerging Industries***
- ❖ ***Building a Regionally-Focused Workforce Strategy***
- ❖ ***Leveraging the Power of Partnerships***
- ❖ ***Tapping the Talents of Special Populations in the Workforce***
- ❖ ***Connecting America's Youth to the Workforce***

Honorees will be selected based on an application package that demonstrates excellence in a variety of criteria relevant to the revised categories. Selection criteria include: innovation, collaboration, service delivery, performance outcomes,

sustainability, replicability, linking workers to demand occupations and emerging industries, and impact.

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, foundations, faith and community-based organizations, and other entities that receive ETA funds or partner with the ETA-funded applicant in the recommended program, project, or initiative. The program, project, or initiative must have been operational for at least twelve (12) months during the last two program years (July 2006 to present). The program, project, or initiative may not have been recognized as an ROE winner in a previous year.

Three nominees in each category will be announced during the 2008 Workforce Innovations conference. The winner announced at Workforce Innovations will receive an engraved commemorative symbol and the two other honorees will receive an engraved plaque.

Applications must be submitted **electronically** by 6:00 p.m. EST on March 28, 2008. Applications received after that date will not be considered. If you have questions about the application process, view the Frequently Asked Questions on the ROE Web site or contact the ROE coordinator, Anissa Holm, by e-mail at: 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 2008, visit the ROE Web site at: <http://roe.doleta.gov/>. Please prepare and submit your electronic application early to meet the 6:00 p.m. EST deadline on March 28, 2008.

For information on the 2008 Workforce Innovations Conference, please visit: www.workforceinnovations.org.