

By Order of the Commission.

Todd A. Stevenson,

Secretary, Consumer Product Safety
Commission.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Historically Black Colleges and Universities Capital Financing Advisory Board

AGENCY: Department of Education. The Historically Black Colleges and Universities Capital Financing Advisory Board.

ACTION: Notice of an open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of an upcoming open meeting of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Capital Financing Advisory Board (Board). The notice also describes the functions of the Board. Notice of this meeting is required by Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and is intended to notify the public of their opportunity to attend.

DATES: Friday, December 12, 2008.
Time: 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

ADDRESSES: U.S. Department of Education, Board Room, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Donald E. Watson, Executive Director, Historically Black College and University Capital Financing (HBCU Capital Financing) Program, 1990 K Street, NW., Room 6130, Washington, DC 20006; telephone: (202) 219-7037; fax: (202) 502-7852; e-mail: donald.watson@ed.gov.

Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Board is authorized by Title III, Part D, Section 347, of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended in 1998 (20 U.S.C. 1066f). The Board is established within the Department of Education to provide advice and counsel to the Secretary and the designated bonding authority as to the most effective and efficient means of implementing construction financing on HBCU campuses and to advise Congress regarding the progress made in implementing the program. Specifically, the Board will provide advice as to the capital needs of HBCUs, how those needs can be met through the program,

and what additional steps might be taken to improve the operation and implementation of the construction-financing program.

The purpose of this meeting is to review current program activities, to make administrative and legislative recommendations to the Secretary and the U.S. Congress that address the current capital needs of HBCUs and capital financing issues of HBCUs, and to share additional steps in which the HBCU Capital Financing Program might improve its operation.

Individuals who will need accommodations for a disability in order to attend the meeting (e.g., interpreting services, assistance listening devices, or materials in alternative format) should notify Donald Watson at 202-219-7037, no later than December 1, 2008. We will attempt to meet requests for accommodations after this date but cannot guarantee their availability. The meeting site is accessible to individuals with disabilities.

An opportunity for public comment is available on Friday, December 12, 2008, between 2:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m. Those members of the public interested in submitting written comments may do so by submitting them to the attention of Donald Watson, 1990 K Street, NW., Room 6130, Washington DC, by Monday, December 1, 2008.

Records are kept of all Board proceedings and are available for public inspection at the Office of the Historically Black College and University Capital Financing Advisory Board, 1990 K Street, NW., Room 6130, Washington, DC 20006, from the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Eastern Standard Time (EST), Monday through Friday.

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Access at: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html>.

Cheryl A. Oldham,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary
Education.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice Inviting Proposals for Ownership and Operation of the Online English Literacy Portal, "U.S.A. Learns Web Portal"

AGENCY: Office of Vocational and Adult Education, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice inviting proposals for ownership and operation of the Online English Literacy Portal, "U.S.A. Learns Web Portal."

SUMMARY: The President announced, as one of his initiatives to address border security and immigration challenges in the United States, a plan to have the U.S. Department of Education (Department) develop and launch a free, web-based portal to help immigrants learn English to help them expand their opportunities and make effective contributions to American society. To implement the President's plan, the Department's Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE), as authorized by the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act and through a contract, has developed and created the U.S.A. Learns Web Portal, an online learning environment designed for limited English proficient (LEP) adults whose level of English proficiency is at a low level. The portal was launched on November 7, 2008, on the Internet and is available for use by the public at no cost. The portal is available at the following Web address: <http://www.usalearns.org>.

The Department plans to turn over ownership and operation of the portal to one or more entities outside of the Federal Government that would, with its or their own resources, continue the maintenance and upkeep of the portal, make improvements to it, and continue to make the portal available at no cost to the public. Through this notice, we are inviting proposals from entities interested in owning and operating the portal.

DATES: To ensure that your proposal receives consideration, it must be submitted to the Department no later than December 31, 2008. The Department would like to turn over ownership and operation of the portal by or about January 15, 2009.