

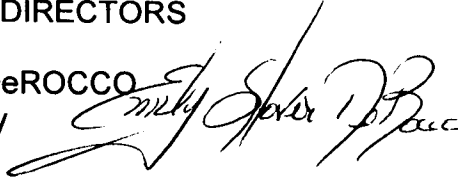
**TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT
NOTICE**

NO. 17-05

DATE January 26, 2006

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
Assistant Secretary



SUBJECT: Announcing the 2006 Recognition of Excellence Process and Application

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is pleased to announce the 2006 Recognition of Excellence (ROE) on behalf of the nation's workforce investment system. 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 and to facilitate the exponential replication of innovative practices throughout the workforce investment system.

ETA is requesting applications in order to select honorees to be showcased at the 2006 Workforce Innovations Conference to be held July 11-13 in Anaheim, California. Through this conference, thousands of workforce investment professionals from across the nation will be able to learn about the promising practices of the honorees. ***The applications are for recognition and 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***
- ❖ ***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 services to occupations in demand, economic development and community benefit; and is replicable.

**EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20210**

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

- 1) A Prepared Workforce: Enhancing opportunities for America's workforce
- 2) A Secure Workforce: Promoting the economic security of workers and families
- 3) A Competitive Workforce: Addressing demand for new, replacement and skilled workers

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 the 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 2004 to present).

Selected honorees will be recognized at a plenary session during the 2006 Workforce Innovations Conference and will be asked to participate in a workshop. Winners will receive an engraved commemorative symbol and three (3) free registrations to the conference. Up to two (2) additional honorees in each category will receive an engraved plaque and one free registration to Workforce Innovations.

Applications must be submitted **electronically** by 5:00 p.m. EST on March 31st, 2006. Applications received after that date will not be considered. If you have questions about the system of recognition or the application process, contact the ROE coordinator, Gloribel Nieves-Cartagena by e-mail at: Nieves-Cartagena.Gloribel@dol.gov or by phone at: (202) 693-2771.

Action: To learn more about last year's Recognition of Excellence presentations, honorees, recognized programs, and the application process for 2006, visit our new website at: www.doleta.gov/roe.

For information on the 2006 Workforce Innovations Conference, please visit: www.workforceinnovations.org.