

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2272

To establish a digital and wireless network technology program, and for
other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2003

Mr. TOWNS (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. WATSON, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. OWENS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish a digital and wireless network technology
program, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Minority Serving Insti-
5 tution Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity Act
6 of 2003”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established within the
3 National Science Foundation an Office of Minority Serv-
4 ing Institution Digital and Wireless Technology to carry
5 out the provisions of this Act.

6 (b) PURPOSE.—The Office shall—

7 (1) strengthen the ability of eligible institutions
8 to provide capacity for instruction in digital and
9 wireless network technologies by providing grants to,
10 or executing contracts or cooperative agreements
11 with, those institutions to provide such instruction;
12 and

13 (2) strengthen the national digital and wireless
14 infrastructure by increasing national investment in
15 telecommunications and technology infrastructure at
16 eligible institutions.

17 **SEC. 3. ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.**

18 An eligible institution shall use a grant, contract, or
19 cooperative agreement awarded under this Act—

20 (1) to acquire the equipment, instrumentation,
21 networking capability, hardware and software, dig-
22 ital network technology, wireless technology, and in-
23 frastructure;

24 (2) to develop and provide educational services,
25 including faculty development, related to science,
26 mathematics, engineering, or technology;

1 (3) to provide teacher education, library and
2 media specialist training, and preschool and teacher
3 aid certification to individuals who seek to acquire or
4 enhance technology skills in order to use technology
5 in the classroom or instructional process;

6 (4) to implement joint projects and consortia to
7 provide education regarding technology in the class-
8 room with a State or State education agency, local
9 education agency, community-based organization,
10 national non-profit organization, or business, includ-
11 ing minority businesses;

12 (5) to provide professional development in
13 science, mathematics, engineering, or technology to
14 administrators and faculty of eligible institutions
15 with institutional responsibility for technology edu-
16 cation;

17 (6) to provide capacity-building technical assist-
18 ance to eligible institutions through remote technical
19 support, technical assistance workshops, distance
20 learning, new technologies, and other technological
21 applications;

22 (7) to foster the use of information communica-
23 tions technology to increase scientific, mathematical,
24 engineering, and technology instruction and re-
25 search; and

1 (8) to develop proposals to be submitted under
2 this Act and to develop strategic plans for informa-
3 tion technology investments.

4 **SEC. 4. APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCEDURE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant,
6 contract, or cooperative agreement under this Act, an eli-
7 gible institution shall submit an application to the Direc-
8 tor at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by
9 such information as the Director may reasonably require.
10 The Director, in consultation with the advisory council es-
11 tablished under subsection (b), shall establish a procedure
12 by which to accept and review such applications and pub-
13 lish an announcement of such procedure, including a state-
14 ment regarding the availability of funds, in the Federal
15 Register.

16 (b) ADVISORY COUNCIL.—The Director shall estab-
17 lish an advisory council to advise the Director on the best
18 approaches for involving eligible institutions in the activi-
19 ties described in section 3, and for reviewing and evalu-
20 ating proposals submitted to the program. In selecting the
21 members of the advisory council, the Director may consult
22 with representatives of appropriate organizations, includ-
23 ing representatives of eligible institutions, to ensure that
24 the membership of the advisory council reflects participa-
25 tion by technology and telecommunications institutions,

1 minority businesses, eligible institution communities, Fed-
2 eral agency personnel, and other individuals who are
3 knowledgeable about eligible institutions and technology
4 issues. Any panel assembled to review a proposal sub-
5 mitted to the program shall include members from minor-
6 ity serving institutions. Program review criteria shall in-
7 clude consideration of—

8 (1) demonstrated need for assistance under this
9 Act; and

10 (2) diversity among the types of institutions re-
11 ceiving assistance under this Act.

12 (c) PEER REVIEW PANEL.—There shall be estab-
13 lished a peer review panel to aid the Director in estab-
14 lishing the application procedure described in subsection
15 (a) and in selecting applicants to receive grants, contracts,
16 and cooperative agreements under section 2. In selecting
17 the members for such panel, the Director may consult with
18 the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Edu-
19 cation, or other appropriate cabinet-level officials, rep-
20 resentatives of non-Federal organizations, and representa-
21 tives of eligible Federal organizations, to ensure that the
22 members of the peer review panel reflect the membership
23 of the minority higher education community, in addition
24 to Federal agency personnel and other individuals who are
25 knowledgeable about and familiar with science, mathe-

1 matics, engineering, and technology issues as they related
2 to eligible institutions.

3 (d) DATA COLLECTION.—An eligible institution that
4 receives a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under
5 section 2 shall provide the Office with any relevant institu-
6 tional statistical or demographic data requested by the Of-
7 fice.

8 (e) INFORMATION DISSEMINATION.—The Director
9 shall convene an annual meeting of eligible institutions re-
10 ceiving grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements under
11 section 2 for the purposes of—

12 (1) fostering collaboration and capacity-building
13 activities among eligible institutions; and

14 (2) disseminating information and ideas gen-
15 erated by such meetings.

16 **SEC. 5. MATCHING REQUIREMENT.**

17 The Director may not award a grant, contract, or co-
18 operative agreement to an eligible institution under this
19 Act unless such institution agrees that, with respect to the
20 costs to be incurred by the institution in carrying out the
21 program for which the grant, contract, or cooperative
22 agreement was awarded, such institution will make avail-
23 able (directly or through donations from public or private
24 entities) non-Federal contributions in an amount equal to
25 $\frac{1}{4}$ of the amount of the grant, contract, or cooperative

1 agreement awarded by the Director, or \$500,000, which-
2 ever is the lesser amount. The Director shall waive the
3 matching requirement for any institution or consortium
4 with no endowment, or an endowment that has a current
5 dollar value lower than \$50,000,000.

6 **SEC. 6. LIMITATIONS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—An eligible institution that re-
8 ceives a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under
9 this Act that exceeds \$2,500,000, shall not be eligible to
10 receive another grant, contract, or cooperative agreement
11 under this Act until every other eligible institution that
12 has applied for a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement
13 under this Act has received such a grant, contract, or co-
14 operative.

15 (b) AWARDS ADMINISTERED BY ELIGIBLE INSTITU-
16 TION.—Each grant, contract, or cooperative agreement
17 awarded under this Act shall be made to, and adminis-
18 tered by, an eligible institution, even when it is awarded
19 for the implementation of a consortium or joint project.

20 **SEC. 7. ANNUAL REPORT AND EVALUATION.**

21 (a) ANNUAL REPORT REQUIRED FROM RECIPI-
22 ENTS.—Each institution that receives a grant, contract,
23 or cooperative agreement under this Act shall provide an
24 annual report to the Director on its use of the grant, con-
25 tract, or cooperative agreement.

1 (b) EVALUATION BY DIRECTOR.—The Director, in
2 consultation with the Secretary of Education, shall—

3 (1) review the reports provided under sub-
4 section (a) each year; and

5 (2) evaluate the program authorized by section
6 3 on the basis of those reports every 2 years.

7 (c) CONTENTS OF EVALUATION.—The Director, in
8 the evaluation, shall describe the activities undertaken by
9 those institutions and shall assess the short-range and
10 long-range impact of activities carried out under the
11 grant, contract, or cooperative agreement on the students,
12 faculty, and staff of the institutions.

13 (d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Director shall sub-
14 mit a report to the Congress based on the evaluation. In
15 the report, the Director shall include such recommenda-
16 tions, including recommendations concerning the con-
17 tinuing need for Federal support of the program, as may
18 be appropriate.

19 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

20 In this Act:

21 (1) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term “eligi-
22 ble institution” means an institution that is—

23 (A) a historically Black college or univer-
24 sity that is a part B institution, as defined in
25 section 322(2) of the Higher Education Act of

1 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061(2)), an institution de-
2 scribed in section 326(e)(1)(A), (B), or (C) of
3 that Act (20 U.S.C. 1063b(e)(1)(A), (B), or
4 (C)), or a consortium of institutions described
5 in this subparagraph;

6 (B) a Hispanic-serving institution, as de-
7 fined in section 502(a)(5) of the Higher Edu-
8 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a(a)(5));

9 (C) a tribally controlled college or univer-
10 sity, as defined in section 316(b)(3) of the
11 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
12 1059c(b)(3));

13 (D) an Alaska Native-serving institution
14 under section 317(b) of the Higher Education
15 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059d(b));

16 (E) a Native Hawaiian-serving institution
17 under section 317(b) of the Higher Education
18 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059d(b)); or

19 (F) an institution determined by the Direc-
20 tor, in consultation with the Secretary of Edu-
21 cation, to have enrolled a substantial number of
22 minority, low-income students during the pre-
23 vious academic year who received assistance
24 under subpart I of part A of title IV of the

1 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
2 1070a et seq.) for that year.

3 (2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
4 the Director of the National Science Foundation.

5 (3) MINORITY BUSINESS.—The term “minority
6 business” includes HUBZone small business con-
7 cerns (as defined in section 3(p) of the Small Busi-
8 ness Act (15 U.S.C. 632(p)).

9 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

10 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Direc-
11 tor of the National Science Foundation \$250,000,000 for
12 each of the fiscal years 2004 through 2008 to carry out
13 this Act.

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