

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 196

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 17, 2003

Mr. ALLEN (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. HOLLINGS, and Mr. MILLER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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 “Digital and Wireless
5 Network Technology Program Act of 2003”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established within the
8 National Science Foundation an Office of Digital and
9 Wireless Network Technology to carry out the provisions
10 of this Act.

1 (b) PURPOSE.—The Office shall—

2 (1) strengthen the ability of eligible institutions
3 to provide capacity for instruction in digital and
4 wireless network technologies by providing grants to,
5 or executing contracts or cooperative agreements
6 with, those institutions to provide such instruction;
7 and

8 (2) strengthen the national digital and wireless
9 infrastructure by increasing national investment in
10 telecommunications and technology infrastructure at
11 eligible institutions.

12 **SEC. 3. ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.**

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

15 (1) to acquire the equipment, instrumentation,
16 networking capability, hardware and software, dig-
17 ital network technology, wireless technology, and in-
18 frastructure;

19 (2) to develop and provide educational services,
20 including faculty development, to prepare students
21 or faculty seeking a degree or certificate that is ap-
22 proved by the State, or a regional accrediting body
23 recognized by the Secretary of Education;

24 (3) to provide teacher education, library and
25 media specialist training, and preschool and teacher

1 aid certification to individuals who seek to acquire or
 2 enhance technology skills in order to use technology
 3 in the classroom or instructional process;

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

10 (5) to provide leadership development to admin-
 11 istrators, board members, and faculty of eligible in-
 12 stitutions with institutional responsibility for tech-
 13 nology education;

14 (6) to provide capacity-building technical assist-
 15 ance to eligible institutions through technical assist-
 16 ance workshops, distance learning, new technologies,
 17 and other technological applications; and

18 (7) to foster the use of information communica-
 19 tions technology to increase scientific, mathematical,
 20 engineering, and technology instruction and re-
 21 search.

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

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant,
 24 contract, or cooperative agreement under this Act, an eli-
 25 gible institution shall submit an application to the Direc-

1 tor at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by
2 such information as the Director may reasonably require.
3 The Director, in consultation with the advisory council es-
4 tablished under subsection (b), shall establish a procedure
5 by which to accept such applications and publish an an-
6 nouncement of such procedure, including a statement re-
7 garding the availability of funds, in the Federal Register.

8 (b) ADVISORY COUNCIL.—The Director shall estab-
9 lish an advisory council to advise the Director on the best
10 approaches for involving eligible institutions in the activi-
11 ties described in section 3. In selecting the members of
12 the advisory council, the Director may consult with rep-
13 resentatives of appropriate organizations, including rep-
14 resentatives of eligible institutions, to ensure that the
15 membership of the advisory council reflects participation
16 by technology and telecommunications institutions, minor-
17 ity businesses, eligible institution communities, Federal
18 agency personnel, and other individuals who are knowl-
19 edgeable about eligible institutions and technology issues.

20 (c) DATA COLLECTION.—An eligible institution that
21 receives a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under
22 section 2 shall provide the Office with any relevant institu-
23 tional statistical or demographic data requested by the Of-
24 fice.

1 (d) INFORMATION DISSEMINATION.—The Director
2 shall convene an annual meeting of eligible institutions re-
3 ceiving grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements under
4 section 2 for the purposes of—

5 (1) fostering collaboration and capacity-building
6 activities among eligible institutions; and

7 (2) disseminating information and ideas gen-
8 erated by such meetings.

9 **SEC. 5. MATCHING REQUIREMENT.**

10 The Director may not award a grant, contract, or co-
11 operative agreement to an eligible institution under this
12 Act unless such institution agrees that, with respect to the
13 costs to be incurred by the institution in carrying out the
14 program for which the grant, contract, or cooperative
15 agreement was awarded, such institution will make avail-
16 able (directly or through donations from public or private
17 entities) non-Federal contributions in an amount equal to
18 $\frac{1}{4}$ of the amount of the grant, contract, or cooperative
19 agreement awarded by the Director, or \$500,000, which-
20 ever is the lesser amount. The Director shall waive the
21 matching requirement for any institution or consortium
22 with no endowment, or an endowment that has a current
23 dollar value lower than \$50,000,000.

1 **SEC. 6. LIMITATIONS.**

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

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

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

16 (a) ANNUAL REPORT REQUIRED FROM RECIPI-
17 ENTS.—Each institution that receives a grant, contract,
18 or cooperative agreement under this Act shall provide an
19 annual report to the Director on its use of the grant, con-
20 tract, or cooperative agreement.

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

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

25 (2) evaluate the program authorized by section
26 3 on the basis of those reports every 2 years.

1 (c) CONTENTS OF EVALUATION.—The Director, in
 2 the evaluation, shall describe the activities undertaken by
 3 those institutions and shall assess the short-range and
 4 long-range impact of activities carried out under the
 5 grant, contract, or cooperative agreement on the students,
 6 faculty, and staff of the institutions.

7 (d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Director shall sub-
 8 mit a report to the Congress based on the evaluation. In
 9 the report, the Director shall include such recommenda-
 10 tions, including recommendations concerning the con-
 11 tinuing need for Federal support of the program, as may
 12 be appropriate.

13 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

14 In this Act:

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

17 (A) a historically Black college or univer-
 18 sity that is a part B institution, as defined in
 19 section 322(2) of the Higher Education Act of
 20 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061(2)), an institution de-
 21 scribed in section 326(e)(1)(A), (B), or (C) of
 22 that Act (20 U.S.C. 1063b(e)(1)(A), (B), or
 23 (C)), or a consortium of institutions described
 24 in this subparagraph;

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

4 (C) a tribally controlled college or univer-
 5 sity, as defined in section 316(b)(3) of the
 6 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
 7 1059c(b)(3));

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

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

14 (F) an institution determined by the Direc-
 15 tor, in consultation with the Secretary of Edu-
 16 cation, to have enrolled a substantial number of
 17 minority, low-income students during the pre-
 18 vious academic year who received assistance
 19 under subpart I of part A of title IV of the
 20 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
 21 1070a et seq.) for that year.

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

24 (3) MINORITY BUSINESS.—The term “minority
 25 business” includes HUBZone small business con-

1 cerns (as defined in section 3(p) of the Small Busi-
2 ness Act (15 U.S.C. 632(p)).

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

4 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Direc-
5 tor of the National Science Foundation \$250,000,000 for
6 each of the fiscal years 2004 through 2008 to carry out
7 this Act.

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