

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 291

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 12, 2007

Mr. SMITH (for himself and Mr. KERRY) 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 “Minority Serving Insti-
5 tution Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity Act
6 of 2007”.

7 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established within the
9 National Science Foundation an Office of Minority Serv-

1 ing Institution Digital and Wireless Technology to carry
2 out the provisions of this Act.

3 (b) PURPOSE.—The Office shall—

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

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

14 **SEC. 3. ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.**

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

17 (1) to acquire equipment, instrumentation, net-
18 working capability, hardware and software, digital
19 network technology, wireless technology, and infra-
20 structure;

21 (2) to develop and provide educational services,
22 including faculty development, related to science,
23 mathematics, engineering, or technology;

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;

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

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

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

23 (8) to develop proposals to be submitted under
24 this Act and to develop strategic plans for informa-
25 tion technology investments.

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

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

13 (b) ADVISORY COUNCIL.—The Director shall estab-
14 lish an advisory council to advise the Director on the best
15 approaches for involving eligible institutions in the activi-
16 ties described in section 3, and for reviewing and evalu-
17 ating proposals submitted to the program. In selecting the
18 members of the advisory council, the Director may consult
19 with representatives of appropriate organizations, includ-
20 ing representatives of eligible institutions, to ensure that
21 the membership of the advisory council reflects participa-
22 tion by technology and telecommunications institutions, el-
23 igible institution communities, Federal agency personnel,
24 and other individuals who are knowledgeable about eligible
25 institutions and technology issues. Any panel assembled
26 to review a proposal submitted to the program shall in-

1 clude members from minority serving institutions. Pro-
2 gram review criteria shall include consideration of—

3 (1) demonstrated need for assistance under this
4 Act; and

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

7 (c) DATA COLLECTION.—An eligible institution that
8 receives a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under
9 section 2 shall provide the Office with any relevant institu-
10 tional statistical or demographic data requested by the Of-
11 fice.

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

16 (1) fostering collaboration and capacity-building
17 activities among eligible institutions; and

18 (2) disseminating information and ideas gen-
19 erated by such meetings.

20 **SEC. 5. MATCHING REQUIREMENT.**

21 The Director may not award a grant, contract, or co-
22 operative agreement to an eligible institution under this
23 Act unless such institution agrees that, with respect to the
24 costs to be incurred by the institution in carrying out the
25 program for which the grant, contract, or cooperative

1 agreement was awarded, such institution will make avail-
2 able (directly or through donations from public or private
3 entities) non-Federal contributions in an amount equal to
4 25 percent of the amount of the grant, contract, or cooper-
5 ative agreement awarded by the Director, or \$500,000,
6 whichever is the lesser amount. The Director shall waive
7 the matching requirement for any institution or consor-
8 tium with no endowment, or an endowment that has a cur-
9 rent dollar value lower than \$50,000,000.

10 **SEC. 6. LIMITATIONS.**

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

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

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

2 (a) ANNUAL REPORT REQUIRED FROM RECIPI-
3 ENTS.—Each institution that receives a grant, contract,
4 or cooperative agreement under this Act shall provide an
5 annual report to the Director on its use of the grant, con-
6 tract, or cooperative agreement.

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

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

11 (2) evaluate the program authorized by section
12 3 on the basis of those reports every 2 years.

13 (c) CONTENTS OF EVALUATION.—The Director, in
14 the evaluation, shall describe the activities undertaken by
15 those institutions and shall assess the short-range and
16 long-range impact of activities carried out under the
17 grant, contract, or cooperative agreement on the students,
18 faculty, and staff of the institutions.

19 (d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Director shall sub-
20 mit a report to the Congress based on the evaluation. In
21 the report, the Director shall include such recommenda-
22 tions, including recommendations concerning the con-
23 tinuing need for Federal support of the program, as may
24 be appropriate.

25 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

26 In this Act:

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

3 (A) a historically Black college or univer-
4 sity that is a part B institution, as defined in
5 section 322(2) of the Higher Education Act of
6 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061(2));

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

10 (C) a tribally controlled college or univer-
11 sity, as defined in section 316(b)(3) of the
12 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
13 1059c(b)(3));

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

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

20 (F) an institution determined by the Direc-
21 tor, in consultation with the Secretary of Edu-
22 cation, to have enrolled a substantial number of
23 minority, low-income students during the pre-
24 vious academic year who received assistance
25 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 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

6 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Direc-
7 tor of the National Science Foundation \$250,000,000 for
8 each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012 to carry out
9 this Act.

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