

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[Docket No. 0811051417-81418-01]

Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship Program

AGENCY: Office of Education (OEd), Office of the Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere (USEC), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Scholarship Opportunity.

SUMMARY: NOAA announces the Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship Program for FY 2009, and sets forth eligibility criteria and selection guidelines for the program. The Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship Program was established through the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (Pub. L. 108-447). This Scholarship Program will provide approximately 100 undergraduate applicants selected for the program with scholarships to participate in oceanic and atmospheric science, research, technology, and education. There is no guarantee that funds will be available to make awards to all qualified applicants.

DATES: Completed applications must be received by January 30, 2009, at 5 p.m. eastern standard time.

ADDRESSES: Applications for the Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship Program will be available at http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/Hollings_info.html. If an applicant does not have Internet access, hardcopy applications may be requested by contacting NOAA Office of Education, Hollings Scholarship Program, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 10703, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: NOAA Hollings Scholarship at StudentScholarshipPrograms@noaa.gov or call 301-713-9437 x150.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

The Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship Program was established through the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (Pub. L. 108-447). The purposes of the program include: (1) To increase undergraduate training in oceanic and atmospheric science, research, technology, and education and to foster multidisciplinary training opportunities; (2) to increase public understanding and support for stewardship of the ocean and atmosphere and to improve

environmental literacy; (3) to recruit and prepare students for public service careers with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other natural resource and science agencies at the Federal, state, local and tribal levels of government; and, (4) to recruit and prepare students for careers as teachers and educators in oceanic and atmospheric science and to improve scientific and environmental education in the United States.

The Hollings Scholarship Program will provide successful undergraduate applicants with awards that include academic assistance (up to a maximum of \$8,000 per year) for full-time study during the 9-month academic year; a 10-week, full-time internship position (\$650/week) during the summer at a NOAA facility; and, if reappointed, academic assistance (up to a maximum of \$8,000) for full-time study during a second 9-month academic year. The internship between the first and second years of the award provides the scholars with "hands-on" practical educational training experience in NOAA-related scientific, research, technology, policy, management, and education activities. Awards will also include travel expenses to attend a mandatory Hollings Scholarship Program orientation, approved conferences where students present a paper or poster, and a housing subsidy for scholars who do not reside at home during the summer internship.

Authority

The Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship Program is established by the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration under authority of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (Pub. L. 108-447).

Funding Availability

Approximately \$3.5 million will be available for the award of a maximum of 100 two-year scholarships, dependent on the availability of appropriations. There is no guarantee that funds will be available to provide scholarships for all qualified students.

Eligibility

Any undergraduate student who is a U.S. citizen; enrolled as a full-time student in the Fall 2008 as a sophomore, at an accredited college or university within the United States or U.S. Territories; possesses a minimum 3.0 grade point average per academic term and cumulative on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent on other identified scale) in all completed undergraduate courses and in their major field of study; and has declared a major in a NOAA-related

discipline, including, but not limited to, oceanic, environmental, and atmospheric sciences, mathematics, engineering, remote sensing technology, marine policy, physical and social sciences including, geography, physics, hydrology, meteorology, oceanography, or teacher education, that support NOAA's programs and mission, may apply to this notification.

The Hollings Scholarship Program will consider applications from all students that meet the above eligibility requirements.

Evaluation Criteria

Application will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Relevant coursework (30%).
2. Education plan and statement of career interest (40%).
3. Recommendations and/or endorsements (reference forms) (20%).
4. Additional relevant experience related to diversity of education; extracurricular activities; honors and awards; non-academic and volunteer work; written and oral communications skills (10%).

Selection Process

An initial administrative review of applications is conducted to determine compliance with requirements and completeness of applications. Only complete applications in compliance with the requirements will be considered for review. Applications identified as incomplete or not in compliance with the requirements will be destroyed. All applications that meet the requirements and are complete will be evaluated and scored individually in accordance with the assigned weights of the evaluation criteria by an independent peer review panel, comprised of Federal and nonfederal employees. No consensus advice or recommendations will be given. A numerical ranking will be assigned to each application based on the average of the panelist's ratings. The Program Officer will conduct a review of the rank order and make recommendations to the Selecting Official based on the panel ratings and the selection factors listed below. The Selecting Official, the Director of Education, NOAA, will consider merit reviews and recommendations and award in rank order unless the application is justified to be selected out of rank order based on one or more of the following selection factors:

Selection Factors

In determining final awards, the selecting official reserves the right to consider the following selection factors:

1. Availability of funds.
2. Balance/distribution of funds:
 - a. Geographically.
 - b. By type of institutions.
 - c. Across academic disciplines.
3. Program-specific objectives.
4. Degree in scientific area and type of degree sought.

Repayment Requirement

A Hollings Scholarship recipient shall be required to repay the full amount of the scholarship to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration if it is determined that the individual, in obtaining or using the scholarship, engaged in fraudulent conduct or failed to comply with any term or condition of the scholarship.

Cost-Sharing Requirements

There are no cost-sharing requirements.

Intergovernmental Review

Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

Limitation of Liability

In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs if this program is cancelled because of other agency priorities. Publication of this notice does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds. Applicants are hereby given notice that funding for the Fiscal Year 2009 program is contingent upon the availability of Fiscal Year 2009 appropriations.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

As defined in sections 5.05 and Administrative or Programmatic Functions of NAO 216-6, 6.03.c.3, this is an undergraduate scholarship and internship program for which there are no cumulative effects. Thus, it has been categorically excluded from the need to prepare an Environmental Assessment.

Paperwork Reduction Act

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), unless that collection displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship application form has been approved under OMB Control No. 0648-0568.

Executive Order 12866

This notice has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

Executive Order 13132 (Federalism)

It has been determined that this notice does not contain policies with Federalism implications as that term is defined in Executive Order 13132.

Administrative Procedure Act/Regulatory Flexibility Act

Prior notice and an opportunity for public comment are not required by the Administrative Procedure Act or any other law for rules concerning public property, loans, grants, benefits, and contracts (5 U.S.C. 553(a)(2)). Because notice and opportunity for comment are not required pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553 or any other law, the analytical requirements for the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) are inapplicable. Therefore, a regulatory flexibility analysis has not been prepared.

Louisa Koch,

Director of Education, NOAA.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Air Force

[Docket ID USAF-2008-0042]

Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

AGENCY: Department of the Air Force, DOD.

ACTION: Notice to Add a New System of Records.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Air Force proposes to add a new system of records to its inventory of record systems subject to the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a), as amended.

DATES: The proposed action will be effective on January 7, 2009 unless comments are received that would result in a contrary determination.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to the Air Force Privacy Act Officer, Office of Warfighting Integration and Chief Information Officer, SAF/XCX, 1800 Air Force Pentagon, Suite 220, Washington, DC 20330-1800.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Kenneth Brodie at (703) 696-7557.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of the Air Force's notices for systems of records subject to the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a), as

amended, have been published in the **Federal Register** and are available from the address above.

The proposed systems reports, as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(r) of the Privacy Act, were submitted on November 26, 2008, to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) pursuant to paragraph 4c of Appendix I to OMB Circular No. A-130, "Federal Agency Responsibilities for Maintaining Records About Individuals," dated February 8, 1996, (February 20, 1996, 61 FR 6427).

Dated: December 2, 2008.

Morgan E. Frazier,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

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SYSTEM NAME:

USAF Information Technology E-Learning System.

SYSTEM LOCATION:

SkillSoft: c/o VeriCenter/Sunguard; 20 Overland Street; Boston, MA 02215-3309.

CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY THE SYSTEM:

Air Force military and civilian personnel, Reserves, Air National Guard, and contractor personnel.

CATEGORIES OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

Individual's full name, Social Security Number (SSN), address, telephone number, student registrations and history of learning assets (courses, test preparations, mentoring, books, skillbriefs) accessed and completed and other related documents.

AUTHORITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM:

10 U.S.C. 8013, Secretary of Air Force; DoD 8570.01-M, Information Assurance Workforce Improvement Program; and Air Force Instruction 33-115, Volume 2, Licensing Network Users and Certifying Network Professionals and E.O. 9397 (SSN).

PURPOSE(S):

To provide interactive, self-paced, web-based training and reference material anytime, anywhere to users' desktops to keep Air Force personnel skilled in the technology and knowledge they need to carry out their missions. Used as a management tool in support of Air Force information technology training requirements.