

The average tuition at a public four-year college has increased by more than 250 percent over the past three decades, while incomes for families in the middle three quintiles (that is, incomes ranging from \$27,219 to \$115,896) grew by only 7, 14, and 24 percent respectively, according to data from the College Board and the U.S. Census. Declining state funding has forced students to shoulder a higher proportion of college costs, and tuition has almost doubled as a share of public college revenues over the past 25 years, growing from 25 percent to 47 percent, according to data from the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association. While a college education remains a worthwhile investment overall, the average borrower now graduates with more than \$26,000 in debt. Only 58 percent of first-time, full-time students who began college in 2004 earned a four-year degree within six years. Loan default rates are rising, and too many young adults are burdened with debt as they seek to start a family, buy a home, launch a business, or save for retirement.

In August 2013, President Obama outlined his agenda for combating rising college costs and making college affordable for American families. His plan will measure college performance through a new ratings system so students and families have the information to select schools that provide the best value. After this ratings system is well established, Congress can tie Federal student aid to college performance so that students maximize their Federal aid at institutions providing the best value. The plan will also promote innovation and competition by taking down barriers that stand in their way and shining a light on the most cutting-edge college practices and new technologies for providing high value at low costs. And to help student borrowers struggling with their existing debt, the President is committed to ensuring that all borrowers who need it can have access to the Pay As You Earn plan that caps loan payments at 10 percent of income.

Additional information on the proposals is available in the "FACT SHEET on the President's Plan to Make College More Affordable: A Better Bargain for the Middle Class," which is posted online at [www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/08/22/fact-sheet-president-s-plan-make-college-more-affordable-better-bargain](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/08/22/fact-sheet-president-s-plan-make-college-more-affordable-better-bargain).

#### Open Forum Arrangements

Please check for updated information on the forum locations, logistics, and other outreach activities, at [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov).

Individuals desiring to present comments or feedback at an open forum must register by sending an email at least three days prior to the open forum to [collegefeedback@ed.gov](mailto:collegefeedback@ed.gov) with the subject "Open Forum Registration." It is likely that each participant will be limited to five minutes for comments. The Department will notify registrants of the location and time slot reserved for them. An individual may make only one presentation at the open forums. If we receive more registrations than we are able to accommodate, the Department reserves the right to reject the registration of an entity or individual that is affiliated with an entity or individual that is already scheduled to present comments and to select among registrants to ensure that a broad range of entities and individuals is allowed to present. We will accept walk-in registrations for any remaining time slots on a first-come, first-served basis at the Department's on-site registration table. Transcripts from the open forums will be made available on the [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov) Web site for public viewing. Speakers may also submit written comments. Please see the **ADDRESSES** section for instructions.

#### Other Feedback

In addition to the open forums, the Department will seek input in a variety of venues and formats. During the months of October, November, and December 2013, the Department will host town halls and roundtables, and it will participate in events organized by other organizations. We also encourage the public to submit comments. Please see the **ADDRESSES** section for instructions.

#### Accessible Format

Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotape, or compact disc) on request to the program contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

#### Electronic Access to This Document

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may also access documents of the Department published in the **Federal Register** by using the article search feature at: [www.federalregister.gov](http://www.federalregister.gov). Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by the Department.

Dated: October 25, 2013.

**Martha Kanter,**

*Under Secretary of Education.*

[FR Doc. 2013-25739 Filed 10-29-13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Advanced Scientific Computing Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Office of Science, Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of Open Teleconference.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces an open meeting of the Advanced Scientific Computing Advisory Committee (ASCAC). This meeting replaces the cancelled ASCAC meeting that was to be held in Washington, DC on October 8-9, 2013, due to the government shutdown. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

**DATES:** Monday, November 18, 2013; 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Mountain Time)

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting is open to the public. To access the call:

1. Dial Toll-Free Number: 866-740-1260 (U.S. & Canada)
2. International participants dial: <http://www.readytalk.com/intl>
3. Enter access code 8083012, followed by "#"

To ensure we have sufficient access lines for the public, we request that members of the public notify the DFO, Christine Chalk, that you intend to call into the meeting via email at: [christine.chalk@science.doe.gov](mailto:christine.chalk@science.doe.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Melea Baker, Office of Advanced Scientific Computing Research; SC-21/ Germantown Building; U. S. Department of Energy; 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585-1290; Telephone (301) 903-7486, (Email: [Melea.Baker@science.doe.gov](mailto:Melea.Baker@science.doe.gov)).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Purpose of the Meeting:* The purpose of this meeting is to provide advice and guidance on a continuing basis to the Department of Energy on scientific priorities within the field of advanced scientific computing research.

Tentative Agenda Topics:

- View from Germantown
- Update on Exascale
- Applied Math Committee of Visitors

**Public Participation:** The teleconference meeting is open to the public.

If you would like to file a written statement with the Committee, you may do so either before or after the meeting. If you would like to make oral statements regarding any of the items on the agenda, you should contact Melea Baker via FAX at 301-903-4846 or via email ([Melea.Baker@science.doe.gov](mailto:Melea.Baker@science.doe.gov)). You must make your request for an oral statement at least 5 business days prior to the meeting. Reasonable provision will be made to include the scheduled oral statements on the agenda. The Chairperson of the Committee will conduct the meeting to facilitate the orderly conduct of business. Public comment will follow the 10-minute rule.

**Minutes:** The minutes of this meeting will be available for public review and copying within 45 days by contacting Ms. Melea Baker at the address listed above.

Issued in Washington, DC, on October 23, 2013.

**LaTanya R. Butler,**

*Deputy Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2013-25811 Filed 10-29-13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Nevada

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of Open Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a meeting of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Nevada. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of this meeting be announced in the **Federal Register**.

**DATES:** Wednesday, November 20, 2013, 5:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** National Atomic Testing Museum, 755 E. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Barbara Ulmer, Board Administrator, 232 Energy Way, M/S 505, North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030. Phone: (702) 630-0522; Fax (702) 295-5300 or Email: [NSSAB@nnsa.doe.gov](mailto:NSSAB@nnsa.doe.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Purpose of the Board:** The purpose of the Board is to make recommendations to DOE-EM and site management in the

areas of environmental restoration, waste management, and related activities.

**Tentative Agenda:**

1. Corrective Action Alternatives for Corrective Action Unit 550, Smokey Contamination Area—Work Plan Item #1
2. External Peer Review for Yucca Flat—Work Plan Item #2
3. Radionuclide Decay at Use-Restricted Soil Sites—Work Plan Item #3
4. Overview of the Groundwater Open House—Work Plan Item #4

**Public Participation:** The EM SSAB, Nevada, welcomes the attendance of the public at its advisory committee meetings and will make every effort to accommodate persons with physical disabilities or special needs. If you require special accommodations due to a disability, please contact Barbara Ulmer at least seven days in advance of the meeting at the phone number listed above. Written statements may be filed with the Board either before or after the meeting. Individuals who wish to make oral presentations pertaining to agenda items should contact Barbara Ulmer at the telephone number listed above. The request must be received five days prior to the meeting and reasonable provision will be made to include the presentation in the agenda. The Deputy Designated Federal Officer is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will facilitate the orderly conduct of business. Individuals wishing to make public comments can do so during the 15 minutes allotted for public comments.

**Minutes:** Minutes will be available by writing to Barbara Ulmer at the address listed above or at the following Web site: <http://nv.energy.gov/nssab/MeetingMinutes.aspx>.

Issued in Washington, DC, on October 23, 2013.

**LaTanya R. Butler,**

*Deputy Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2013-25814 Filed 10-29-13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces an open meeting of the Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee under Section 9008(d) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of

2008. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law No. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that agencies publish these notices in the **Federal Register** to allow for public participation. This notice announces the meeting of the Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee.

**DATES:**

November 21, 2013 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.  
November 22, 2013 8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** American Geophysical Union, 2000 Florida Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20009.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Elliott Levine, Designated Federal Official for the Committee, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585; (202) 586-1476; Email: [Elliott.Levine@ee.doe.gov](mailto:Elliott.Levine@ee.doe.gov) or Roy Tiley at (410) 997-7778 ext. 220; Email: [rtiley@bcs-hq.com](mailto:rtiley@bcs-hq.com).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Purpose of Meeting:** To provide advice and guidance that promotes research and development leading to the production of biobased fuels and biobased products.

**Tentative Agenda:** Agenda will include the following:

- Update on USDA Biomass R&D Activities
- Update on DOE Biomass R&D Activities
- Annual Committee Recommendations
- Presentations on the Use of Marginal Lands for Bioenergy
- Overview of the Bioenergy Knowledge Discovery Framework (KDF) Tool

**Public Participation:** In keeping with procedures, members of the public are welcome to observe the business of the Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee. To attend the meeting and/or to make oral statements regarding any of the items on the agenda, you must contact Elliott Levine at 202-586-1476; Email: [Elliott.Levine@ee.doe.gov](mailto:Elliott.Levine@ee.doe.gov) or Roy Tiley at (410) 997-7778 ext. 220; Email: [rtiley@bcs-hq.com](mailto:rtiley@bcs-hq.com) at least 5 business days prior to the meeting. Members of the public will be heard in the order in which they sign up at the beginning of the meeting. Reasonable provision will be made to include the scheduled oral statements on the agenda. The Co-chairs of the Committee will make every effort to hear the views of all interested parties. If you would like to file a written statement with the Committee, you may do so either before or after the meeting. The Co-chairs will conduct the meeting to facilitate the orderly conduct of business.