

Alternatives under consideration include taking no action, ten alternative roadway alignments, and a Transportation System Management alternative.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments have been sent to federal, State and local agencies, and to private land owners, organizations, and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have an interest in this project. A meeting to discuss the scope of the EIS was held October 26, 1994, in Honolulu, Hawaii. In addition, a public hearing will be held after publication of the draft EIS. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the hearing. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the FHWA at the above address.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Issued on: October 31, 1995.

R.J. McCormick,

*Field Operations Engineer.*

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### **Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation**

#### **Advisory Board; Notice of Cancellation of Meeting**

The Advisory Board meeting of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, to be held at 11:00 a.m., November 9, 1995, at the Corporation's Administration Building, 180 Andrews Street, Massena, New York 13662, has been cancelled. Notice of this meeting appeared in the November 2, 1995 Federal Register, page 55753.

Issued at Washington, D.C. on November 2, 1995.

Marc C. Owen,

*Advisory Board Liaison.*

[FR Doc. 95-27733 Filed 11-8-95; 8:45 am]

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### **UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY**

#### **The Edmund S. Muskie Fellowship Program; Request for Proposals; Notice**

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Academic Programs, Academic Exchanges Division, European Branch of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces opportunities for regionally and professionally accredited U.S. institutions offering degree and executive education programs at the master's level in business administration, economics, law and public administration, to host graduate students from Armenia, Azerbaijan\*, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, or Uzbekistan for nine month, one-year, eighteen month, or two-year degree, certificate, or professional development programs under the auspices of the 1996 Edmund S. Muskie Fellowship Program. Priority will be given to institutions that can provide academic guidance and professional development support to Fellows and that have experience working with international students. Due to budgetary considerations, and to allow participation of as many Fellows as possible, the cost per student to USIA will be given serious consideration in the review of institutional applications.

\*Please note: Programs with Azerbaijan are subject to restrictions of Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act: Employees of the Government of Azerbaijan or any of its instrumentalities are excluded from participation, and no U.S. participant overseas may work for the Government of Azerbaijan or any of its instrumentalities. In addition, the Government of Azerbaijan or any of its instrumentalities will have no control in the actual selection of participants.

The Edmund S. Muskie Program is administered by USIA through cooperative agreements with the following organizations: The American Council of Teaches of Russian/American Council for Collaboration in Education and Language Study (ACTR/ACCELS), the Institute of International Education (IIE), the International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX), and the Soros Foundations/Open Society Institute (Soros/OSI). Under these agreements ACTR/ACCELS, IIE, IREX, and Soros/OSI are responsible for the recruitment, selection, academic placement, and monitoring of Fellows.

**DATES: Deadline for proposals:** Completed applications must be received at the appropriate organization

(listed below) by 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, on Wednesday, January 31, 1996. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked on January 31, 1996, but received at a later date. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that proposals are received by the above deadline. Institutions selected to host Muskie Fellows should expect to receive students Fall semester of 1996.

**PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION:** Overall authority for these programs is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, as amended Public Law 87-256 (Fulbright-Hays Act). The purpose of the Act is "to enable the Government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and people of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchange, to strengthen the ties which unite us with other nations by demonstrating the educational and cultural interests, developments, and achievements of the people of the United States and other nations. . . and thus assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic, and peaceful relations between the United States and other countries of the world."

**DIVERSITY GUIDELINES:** Pursuant to the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs authorizing legislation, programs must maintain a non-political character and should be balanced and representative of the diversity of the American political, social and cultural life. "Diversity" should be interpreted in the broadest sense and encompass differences including, but not limited to ethnicity, race, gender, religion, geographic location, socio-economic status, and physical challenges. Applicants are strongly encouraged to adhere to the advancement of this principle both in program administration and in program content. Programs shall also "maintain their scholarly integrity and shall meet the highest standards of academic excellence or artistic achievement."

**APPLICATION PROCESS AND FURTHER INFORMATION:** Interested institutions should read the complete Federal Register announcement and then contact ACTR/ACCELS, IIE, IREX, or Soros/OSI directly for an application and further instructions. The original and three copies of the proposal should be submitted by the deadline to the appropriate organization listed below:

For degree programs in business administration or two-year degree programs in public administration: The Edmund S. Muskie Fellowship Program, c/o ACTR/ACCELS, 1776 Massachusetts

Avenue, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20036, e-mail: felows@actr.org.

For two-year degree programs in economics: The Edmund S. Muskie Fellowship Program, c/o IREX, 1616 H Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006, e-mail: muskie@info.irex.org.

For degree programs in law or nine month/one-year/eighteen month programs in public administration: The Edmund S. Muskie Fellowship Program, c/o The Open Society Institute, 888 Seventh Avenue, 31st Floor, New York, NY 10106, e-mail: akehoe@sorosny.org.

For professional development programs in business administration, economics, law, or public administration: The Edmund S. Muskie Fellowship Program, c/o The Institute of International Education, 1400 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005-2403, e-mail: moleszek@iie.org.

**RENEWAL PROCESS FOR CURRENT HOST INSTITUTIONS:** U.S. institutions currently hosting or who have been approved to host 1994 and/or 1995 Muskie Fellows in degree, certificate, or professional development programs that wish to receive Fellows in 1996 in the same fields of study are not required to complete the institutional application providing the 1996 academic programs, support services, and cost-sharing level remain consistent with or better than the 1995 program.

These institutions must demonstrate intent to receive 1996 Muskie Fellows in the same field(s) by submitting a renewal application letter:

- Confirming that the academic program, professional and enrichment support, and adherence to other grant requirements will, at a minimum, remain consistent with current levels.
- Addressing how the host institution will work with its local community to provide assistance in the professional training and cultural enrichment of the students, including the use of such groups as Councils of International Visitors, business associations, local schools, and local government.
- Indicating the desired numbers of Fellows to be hosted, the length and type of program in which they will be placed (non-degree, degree, certificate, or professional development), the name and contact information of the Muskie coordinator, the 1996-97 academic calendar, what kind of pre-academic/ESL support can be offered, and the amount of cost-sharing provided for each Fellow, adjusted as needed for 1996-97 costs.

Current host institutions need to contact the appropriate contract organizations (ACTR/ACCELS, IREX, IIE, or Soros/OIS) to receive the required

budget worksheet that must be submitted along with the letter. Original letters must be received by the appropriate contact organization by January 31, 1996.

Current host institutions that wish to host Fellows in a different academic field must submit a full application to be eligible to receive students in that discipline. Any institutions that are unsure which application materials to submit should contact the appropriate contract organization (ACTR/ACCELS, IREX, IIE, or Soros/OSI).

**ADDITIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION:** The Edmund S. Muskie Fellowship Program is not intended as a precursor to doctoral studies in the United States. At the end of their designated academic and internship programs, Fellows are required to return to their home countries to fulfill the two-year home residency requirement as specified in the Exchange Visitor (J-Visa) regulations.

ACTR, IREX, IIE, and Soros Foundations/OSI will not approve the transfer of visa sponsorship to universities or the extension of visas for the purpose of Ph.D. programs, extended practical training, or other additional academic study. Universities that do not comply with the policies of the Muskie program and J-Visa regulations will be removed from the pool of host institutions.

Muskie Fellows are identified through a merit-based, open competition and a rigorous selection process implemented by ACTR/ACCELS, IIE, IREX, and Soros/OSI, in conjunction with USIA, professional associations, and U.S. faculty from the different academic fields. Semi-finalists in all disciplines must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Candidates for degree programs may also be required to take standardized admissions tests such as the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT), or the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Candidates for the law program must have an undergraduate law degree from their home country. Fellows are matched with universities by selection committees composed of graduate admissions officers and faculty in the appropriate disciplines. Placements are determined according to Fellows' academic interests and needs. Fellows may not choose their own academic placements. Currently 130 Muskie Fellows are enrolled at U.S. institutions.

To be eligible for a Muskie Fellowship, applicants must be citizens of one of the country targeted by the program, have successfully completed an undergraduate program, be proficient

in spoken and written English at the time of application, demonstrate professional aptitude and leadership potential in the field of specialization, and be under the age of 40. Applicants for professional development programs must have a minimum of three years relevant work experience in addition to an undergraduate degree. To be eligible for awards in law, candidates must have received an undergraduate diploma in law. Individuals currently studying, working or living outside the fifteen participating countries, spouses of U.S. citizens, and individuals who have applied for an immigrant visa or political asylum to any country are not eligible for the Muskie Program. Individuals who have spent four or more consecutive months outside the fifteen participatory nations since June 1994 are not eligible for the 1996 competition.

No financial support or provision is made for Fellows' dependents under the Muskie Program. Muskie Fellows receive scholarships for international transportation, domestic transportation within the United States, stipend, health insurance, full or partial tuition, room/board, and other expenses.

Fellows who receive TOEFL scores below 550 will enroll in courses of English as a Second Language (ESL) in summer 1996. Fellows who receive TOEFL scores above 550 may be placed in summer pre-academic programs prior to arrival at their host universities.

**PROGRAM GUIDELINES:** *Degree and Certificate Programs:* In general, Fellows with degree awards in business administration or economics, should take part in eighteen-month/two-year academic programs leading to the degree of Master of Business Administration (BMA) or Master of Arts (MA) degree. Economics programs should focus on applied fields such as economic policy and planning, economic development, econometrics, banking, international development and trade. Fellows with degree awards in public administration should take part in nine month, one-year, eighteen month, or two-year programs leading to the Masters of Public Administration (MPA) or Master of Arts (MA) degree. In some cases, certificates may be awarded instead of degrees. Three-month internships should take place during the summer of 1997, after one year of academic study. All programs in law must lead to the Master of Laws (LLM) degree. Fellows with awards in law generally participate in nine-month LLM programs followed by a three-month internship. Longer LLM programs are also admissible.

**Professional Development Programs:** The Professional Development awards are specifically designed for mid-career professionals with at least three years substantive work experience prior to application. These non-degree programs in business administration, economics, and public administration generally include two semesters of tailored academic study at the master's level, followed by up to six months of practical training. The law program for mid-career professionals should lead to the LL.M. degree with up to six months of practical training after the period of academic study.

**PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND REVIEW**

**CRITERIA:** Nationally and professionally accredited U.S. institutions and accredited departments may apply to receive Fellows individually or in groups of two to ten people representing one or any combination of the four disciplines. Host institutions for 1996 Muskie Fellows will be selected by ACTR/ACCELS, IIE, IREX, Soros/OSI, and USIA, based on the following criteria:

a. **Strength of academic program:** Academic rigor and demonstrated capacity to meet participant needs in an accredited institution and department.

b. **Track record:** Experience working with and providing a full range of support services for international students. Recognition of and compliance with the intent, policies, and regulations governing the Muskie Program.

c. **Professional support:** Commitment to playing an active role in locating appropriate internships and professional affiliations. Additionally, proposals should briefly describe local community resources upon which the institution will draw.

d. **Academic support:** Capacity to assign a faculty advisor and a Muskie Program coordinator to provide academic guidance, logistical support, and assistance in arranging enrichment activities and internships.

e. **Cost-effectiveness:** Ability to provide a high quality program for lowest costs. A key measure of cost-effectiveness is the host institution's program cost per Fellow. The Agency also reviews the ratio of cost-sharing to program costs exhibited through such means as tuition scholarships, fellowships, or reduced room and board expenses.

f. **Diversity:** Proposals should demonstrate substantive support of the Bureau's policy on diversity. Achievable and relevant features should be cited in both program administration and program content. The Agency seeks to

achieve maximum geographic diversity in the selection of host institutions.

g. **Evaluation plan:** Proposals should outline methods for monitoring the academic progress and integration of Fellows in the campus and community.

h. Adherence of proposed activities to the criteria outlined above and the goals and policies of the Edmund S. Muskie Program.

Interested institutions should indicate what kinds of pre-academic/ESL support they can offer Fellows. Commuter and/or non-residential schools should address how they will provide additional support to integrate Fellows into the university and local community.

Fellows' applications will be sent to the universities in June. The academic interests and professional needs of candidates selected as Fellows will be considered in the final designation of U.S. host institutions. Universities cannot select their own Fellows.

**AGENCY COST SHARING GUIDELINES:** U.S. institutions hosting Muskie Fellows are strongly encouraged to provide cost-sharing toward tuition and/or room and board expenses, so that greater numbers of students may take part in the program. Cost-sharing may also be in the form of direct program and participant costs. Indirect and administrative costs will not be considered allowable cost-sharing items, nor will these costs be covered by the Muskie Program. The basis for determining the value of cash and in-kind contributions must be in accordance with OMB Circular A-110 (Revised), Subpart C.23—Cost-Sharing and Matching should be described in the proposal. In the event the institution does not provide the minimum amount of cost-sharing as stipulated in the institution's budget, the Agency's contribution will be reduced in proportion to the institution's contribution.

The National Performance Review, under Vice President Gore's leadership, has focused during the past several months on international exchange and training programs throughout the federal government. USIA has participated actively in the review and has committed itself to the aggressive pursuit of greater cost-effectiveness and efficiency in the conduct of our programs. We anticipate that cost-effectiveness and cost-sharing will be important criteria by which the NPR will determine which U.S. Government exchange and training programs should be maintained and which reduced or eliminated in an effort to prevent duplication.

Demonstrable efforts to significantly increase efficiency, therefore, are critical both to the continuation of U.S. and foreign student programs and the continued administration of them. Preference will be given to institutions that provide cost-sharing on direct participant costs. While the Agency strongly encourages cost-sharing, it is not a requirement. Institutions unable to offer cost-sharing are eligible to apply.

**APPLICATION DISCLAIMER:** The terms and conditions published in this RFP are binding and may not be modified by any USIA, ACTR/ACCELS, IIE, IREX, or Soros/OSI representative.

Explanatory information provided by USIA, ACTR/ACCELS, IIE, IREX, or Soros/OSI that contradicts published language will not constitute a commitment on the part of the Government or the implementing organization.

**NOTIFICATION:** Final notifications cannot be made until funds have been fully appropriated by Congress, allocated, and committed through internal USIA procedures. Applicants will be notified in writing of the results of the review process on or about April 15, 1996. Final placement of students at institutions is subject to the specific academic interests and needs of individuals selected as Muskie Fellows and availability of funding.

Please note: USIA retains the right to determine final selection decisions with regard to the competition for institutions to host Muskie Fellows. The Agency also reserves the right to determine final placement decisions. When the needs of the program warrant, the Agency may invite selected institutions to host Fellows whose academic needs require specialized placement.

**OPTIONS FOR RENEWAL:** Subject to the availability of funding and the satisfactory performance of host institutions, USIA, on behalf of the Muskie Fellowship Program, may invite grantee organizations to submit proposals for renewal of awards.

**REVIEW PROCESS:** ACTR/ACCELS, IREX, IIE, or Soros/OSI will acknowledge receipt of all applications and will review them for technical eligibility. Applications will be deemed ineligible if they do not fully adhere to the guidelines stated herein and in the Application Package. Eligible applications will be forwarded to panels of USIA officers for advisory review. All eligible applications may also be reviewed by the Agency contracts office, as well as the USIA Office of East European and NIS Affairs, the USIS posts overseas, the Office of the General

Counsel, or other Agency elements,  
where appropriate.

Notification

All applicants will be notified of the  
results of the review process on or about  
April 15, 1996.

Dated: November 1, 1995.

Dell Pendergrast,

*Deputy Associate Director, Educational and  
Cultural Affairs.*

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**BILLING CODE 8230-01-M**