

Date: May 14, 2002

Subject: Appalachian Regional Commission Tennessee Conference & Commission Meeting, October 29 – 31, 2002

To: Appalachian Regional Commission State Alternates and Program Managers

As was mentioned by ARC States' Co-Chairman Governor Don Sundquist at the Quorum Commission meeting in February, Tennessee will host this year's regional conference which will focus on education.

Entitled *Education and The Community: Fostering Mutual Support*, the conference and the fall Commission meeting will take place in the mountains of East Tennessee in Blount County, near Knoxville, on October 29, 30 and 31, 2002. The Hilton Knoxville Airport Hotel in Alcoa, Tennessee, will house our conference attendees and several conference events on October 29th and 30th. The Commission meeting will take place the following morning on October 31st.

On April 25, 2002, the Commission sponsored a workshop by the U.S. Department of Education for the State Education Agencies serving Appalachia to assist the states in the implementation of the new law, "No Child Left Behind Act of 2001." During the workshop, participants asked the Commission for assistance in establishing better lines of communication with their state economic development and business communities.

To address the need for better lines of communication, we are requesting that each state alternate invite one or more local school superintendents from a distressed county(s) or, in states with no distressed counties, a distressed area(s) to the October conference. The Commission will provide \$2,000 per state for the geographically large states with a larger number of school districts – Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia; \$1,500 for Ohio and Mississippi which have a considerable number of distressed counties; and \$1,000 per state for all other states. These funds are to pay for transportation, lodging and conference registration costs for one or more superintendents per state. We are also asking that you invite the Governor's education policy advisor to attend the conference with you and to participate in state caucuses. Please submit to ARC by May 31, 2002, the names, titles and addresses of those individuals, so that we may send them additional information as it becomes available. The Commission will be inviting the State Education Agency personnel who participated in the April 25th meeting.

Working with Tennessee State Alternate Mike McGuire, we are planning a very productive conference agenda, as well as several special events you will not want to miss!

Jeff Schwartz is serving as conference program manager. Please call on Jeff at (202) 884-7721 or jschwartz@arc.gov if you have questions, or need assistance.

THOMAS M. HUNTER
Executive Director

cc: ARC Federal Co-Chairman
States' Washington Representative