

HAMMER AWARD GOES TO KANSAS CITY CIVIL RIGHTS OFFICE

From US Dept. of Education

■(KANSAS CITY) Vice President Al Gore's Hammer Award, recognizing outstanding examples of reinventing government, was presented Wednesday to the U.S. Education Department's Office for Civil Rights in Kansas City.

The award honored the Kansas City office for developing a faster, friendlier approach to civil rights compliance reviews in its region, which includes Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska and Missouri.

The Hammer Award was named in recognition of the infamous \$400 government hammers of years past. The plaque consists of a \$6 hammer, a ribbon and card from Gore — all in an aluminum frame.

FCC CHAIRMAN URGES OPEN COMPETITION AND CHOICE IN CHINA

From Federal Communications Commission

■(BEIJING) Federal Communication Commission Chairman Reed Hundt urged China's leaders to further "the goal of open competition and choice in telecommunications," recently. Hundt's remarks were in a speech to the Center for Information Infrastructure and Economic Development in Beijing, China.

Hundt said that through telecommunications advances "China can discover a way to bring to all the benefits of education." He added that satellite technology "holds tremendous promise for a country as large and geographically diverse as China [by] bringing information and education to any corner of China without the need for the very expensive installation of wireline networks.

"A number of new mobile satellite systems are cooperating with Chinese partners to bring mobile satellite service to China. For these systems to succeed and for China to benefit from their promise, the key will be — as with other sectors in telecommunications — to allow for competition, to allow multiple operators to compete and strive and allow consumers to choose the best. I also hope China will explore the possibility of authorizing multiple, competing broadcasters. Countries that have followed this advice have been pleased with the results. Independent television stations, and the competition between them and between state-owned entities, have generated many new jobs and first-rate local programming."

What prompted the Kansas City honor was the office's new "Profile, Assessment and Resolution" approach to compliance reviews. It replaced a lengthier, sometimes more confrontational process.

Under the new program, the civil rights office shares its expertise with that of state and local school officials, parents, and other community members to reach effective solutions to high priority civil rights issues. Traditional compliance reviews could sometimes

UTILITIES LAUDED FOR MEASURES CUTTING ACID RAIN, GLOBAL WARMING EMISSIONS

From Environmental Protection Agency

■(WASHINGTON) In an action reflecting EPA's market-based, cost-efficient approach to Clean Air Act implementation, the Agency Tuesday announced the awarding of 5,687 acid rain bonus allowances to five electric power utilities for undertaking energy efficiency and renewable energy measures. This is the sixth group of awards given under the Conservation and Renewable Energy Reserve program established by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

Energy efficiency leads to less power generation demand, which in turn leads to emission reductions in sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), carbon dioxide (CO₂), toxics and particulates, as well as the reduction of water contaminants and solid waste. Electric power plants are the biggest United States source of SO₂, NO₂ and carbon dioxide. The energy efficiency and renewable energy measures will lead to a one-time CO₂ reduction of approximately 2.15 million tons.

The five awardees and number of allowances received are: Pacific Gas & Electric, Calif., 3814 allowances received (the biggest single award to date); San Diego Gas & Electric, Calif., 1027 allowances; Sierra Pacific Power, Nev., 666 allowances; ESI Energy, Fla., 143 allowances; and Wisconsin Public Power, 37 allowances. Under the Acid Rain requirements, an electric utility must hold one allowance for every ton of SO₂ emitted. EPA allocates a limited number of allowances to utilities to ensure that emissions will be cut in half by the year 2010 — to less than 9 million tons annually nationwide.

For further technical information on the awards, contact Melanie Dean at 202-233-9189 or the Acid Rain Hotline at 202- 233-9620.

take months. Now, they are usually resolved with school officials in 30 to 45 days.

The partnership approach has also resulted in far fewer staff resources being expended. Among the program's new features:

- meetings with state and local school officials and the public;
- clear communication, providing everyone with simple statements of the legal issues under consideration;
- assisting school officials in conducting assessments of their policies and practices;
- providing school officials with immediate feedback;
- looking for answers, not problems, by working with school officials to resolve any identified civil rights concerns; and,
- offering follow up technical assistance.

Like all civil rights regional enforcement offices, Kansas City's staff of 50 investigators, attorneys and others ensure that schools comply with civil rights laws.

The statutes prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability and age in institutions that receive federal money.

Almost 600 Hammer Awards have been presented to federal, state and local employees working to build a better government. The awards are made to teams — not individuals — who have made significant contributions in support of President Clinton's National Performance Review. Its guiding principles are to put customers first, cut red tape, empower employees and get "back to the basics."

Nominations for the awards originate from numerous sources, including departments and agencies submitting their own success stories, as well as from state and local governments and private enterprises.

"The Assembly has witnessed over the last few weeks how historical truth is established; once an allegation has been repeated a few times, it is no longer an allegation, it is an established fact, even if no evidence has been brought out in order to support it."

*Dag Hammarskjöld
on attacks by Soviet Premier
Nikita S. Khrushchev in the U.N.
General Assembly
The New York Times
Oct. 4, 1960*