

NATIONAL EDUCATION INITIATIVES

From U.S. Dept. of Education

■(WASHINGTON) Tennessee became the 28th state to receive 3rd-year funding under Goals 2000. During the second year, 115 grants supporting professional development for teachers and local education reform went to schools working with community and parent organizations, other schools, colleges and universities, and business and industry.

For example, the Elizabethton City Schools is using 2nd-year funding to establish an on-line Writing Lab for the state. The lab will maintain an Internet homepage offering sample papers from the Tennessee Comprehensive Writing Assessment, information on instruction and assessment of writing, ideas for family writing activities, and community updates about writing assess-

ment. Another project, the Coalition for Hands-On Science Education, offers hands-on science using outdoor settings at Farrer School and Tim's Ford State Park.

School To Work

Last month, Labor Secretary Reich and Education Secretary Riley announced Mentor/Peer grants for five exemplary school-to-work (STW) partnerships, to share their successful methods with other STW partnerships around the country.

- Lane Community College (Eugene, OR) will help educators learn to use "best practices" through workshops, a "how to" manual, and technical assistance.

- The Napa County Office of Education (Napa, CA) will offer workshops in each of 15 states where community teams will develop plans for action.

- Rochester City School District (Rochester, NY) will provide teleconferences,

workshops and site visits.

- Southern Alleghenies Tech Prep Consortium and Great Johnstown Career and Technology Center STW Partnership will share its manual for training school-based mentors, work-based mentors and students involved in job shadowing or other workplace experiences.

- Green River Community College (Auburn, WA) will organize teams of teachers to interview employers about future skills needed, sponsoring work-based learning, re-training needs and employee job assignments.

Safe and Drug-Free Schools

Last month, Secretary Riley announced grants to 28 two-year projects to: research efforts to prevent youth from using drugs; remove firearms from schools; prevent truancy and address the needs of youth out of the education mainstream; and prevent vio-

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tion that we continue to provide opportunities for these time-honored sports."

License sales figures are compiled annually by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from information submitted by state fish and wildlife agencies. The figures are part of a formula to determine the amount of funding each state receives through the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration and the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration programs, both administered by the Service. Under these programs, sportsmen and women pay an excise tax on hunting and fishing equipment such as firearms, ammunition, and tackle. The money is, in turn, distributed to the states in the form of grants to conserve wildlife; teach hunter safety; and provide fishing, hunting, and boating opportunities.

The number of hunting license holders has declined in the past 13 years from a record high of 16.7 million in 1982. Meanwhile, the number of fishing license holders has been about the same for the past decade.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish and wildlife and their habitats. The Service manages 511 national wildlife refuges encompassing 92 million acres, as well as 72 national fish hatcheries.

The agency also enforces Federal wildlife laws, manages migratory bird populations, stocks recreational fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, administers the Endangered Species Act, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts.

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class, which had 12 women. The number of African-American freshmen increased from three to four, all Democrats, and there are two new Hispanic Members.

Talk about diversity. In age groups alone they are fairly representative of the population. Twenty-eight of the freshmen are in their 50s; Ford Jr. is the only new member in his twenties; 18 are in their 30s; 22 in their 40s, and, four freshmen are in their 60s, making the average age 46.

Senate freshmen average 48 years old, and the class is 13 percent (or two) female, similar to the House.

What did they do before they were elected? Most new Senators are currently House members — eight Senators came from the lower chamber, making that the most popular profession of the group.

Next most common profession is lawyer (seven). Then comes businessman (four), executive branch official (four), state official (four), academic (two), and veterinarian (one).

Finally, a statistical anomaly sets off the freshmen of the 105th Congress. Six new members are parents of twins. That means 6.8 percent of freshman representatives and senators are parents of twins. In the population at large, only about 2.6 percent of births are multiple births.

CLASS OF 1996 AT A GLANCE

Number of House freshmen: 73
 Number of Senate freshmen: 15
 Age of youngest new member: 26, Harold Ford Jr. (D-Tenn.)
 Age of oldest new member: 65, Bob Smith (R-Ore)
 Average age, House freshmen: 46
 Average age, Senate freshmen: 48
 Number of new House members who are women: 9
 Number of new Senate members who are women: 2
 Number of new members who've held previous political office: 44
 Number of ex-members returning to the House: 5
 Number of new members who are lawyers: 25
 Number of new members who are former Congressional staffers: 6
 Most popular profession of incoming Senate class: House member
 Most popular committee preference of incoming House freshmen: Commerce
 Number of new members who are parents of twins: 6