

**Education Initiatives, continued from page 8**

pany practices: the "Employer Participation Model." NELC is a coalition of CEOs working to mobilize the business community around the STW initiative. Member CEOs have pledged to sustain their own work-based learning programs & promote school-to-work issues, both within their own companies & among the business world & the public. NELC is chaired by Alex Trotman, Chairman of Ford Motor Company. For more information on NELC & to see the Employer Participation Model, please visit: [www.nelc.org](http://www.nelc.org)

**FCC Decision on Universal Service**

Secretary Riley hailed the November 7 recommendation from the Federal-State Joint Board to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as "good news for American education." The recommendation, he said, "moves American education closer to achieving our national goal of universal access for all schools — public & private — and for all of our nation's many wonderful libraries." Under the recommendation, which is based on 8 months of deliberation over a 40,000-page record, Secretary Riley said that "Almost 70 percent of all schools will get at least a 50 percent discount on a wide range of telecommunications services. By providing the deepest discounts to schools with the largest number of poor children — discounts of up to 90 percent — the Joint Board begins to give these schools a real start to being part of the ongoing telecommunications revolution."

The Board states, in its "Recommended Decision of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service," that: "...all eligible schools & libraries may receive discounts of between 20 and 90 percent on all telecommunications services, Internet access, and internal connections, subject to a \$2.25 billion annual cap. In addition, any funds that are not disbursed in a given year may be carried forward, and may be disbursed in subsequent years without regard to the cap. We find that this recommendation provides schools & libraries with the maximum flexibility to purchase the package of services they believe will be most effective to meet their respective communications needs. We also conclude that economically disadvantaged schools & libraries, as well as schools & libraries located in high cost areas, should receive greater discounts to ensure that they have affordable access to telecommunications & information services. Further, we recommend that schools & libraries be re-

quired to comply with several self-certification requirements, designed to ensure that only eligible entities receive universal support & that they have adopted plans for securing cost-effective access to & use of all of the services purchased...."

The full text of the Board's recommended decision & related information are available at: [www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Common\\_Carrier/Reports/decision.html](http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Common_Carrier/Reports/decision.html)

**Preventing Youth Crime & Violence**

"Preventing Crime & Promoting Responsibility: 50 Programs That Help Communities Help Their Youth" is available from the President's Crime Prevention Council (the agency responsible for coordinating federal prevention programs & assisting communities & community-based organizations in their efforts to prevent crime). The 97-page booklet suggests questions and a process communities can use in planning their own efforts to prevent crime & violence among youth. Descriptions of 50 federal prevention programs & lists of federal resource centers, clearinghouses, and publications are included. For a copy or to be placed on the Council's mailing list please call (202) 395-5555, fax (202) 395-5567 or write the President's Crime Prevention Council, 736 Jackson Place, NW, Washington, D.C. 20503.

**Hammer Award**

Six teams in the Department received the Vice President's 1996 Hammer Award this month in recognition of their contributions to the President's National Performance Review principles of putting customers first, cutting red tape, empowering employees, & getting back to basics. The award, named in response to the \$400 government hammer that became a symbol of government waste, went to: the Office for Civil Rights serving the Cleveland region, the Office for Civil Rights serving the Kansas City region, the Cooperative Audit Resolution & Oversight Initiative (a partnership among 4 ED offices and 3 states — Florida, Mississippi, & Washington — to streamline the audit resolution process), the Multi-Input Performance Appraisal System (GPAS) Team (for the performance appraisal system which combines "Pass or Fail" with 360 degree evaluations of employees by their supervisors, co-workers, & customers), the Rehabilitation Services Administration partnership with the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (for streamlining the process of providing services to rehabilita-

tion agency customers), and the Reinvention Coordinating Council & the 14 teams it chartered (for fostering a climate of reinvention & positive change for the Department & its customers).

**Online Library**

Recent additions to our Online Library from the National Center for Education Statistics include:

- ✓ Remedial Education at Higher Education Institutions in Fall 1995
- ✓ Out of the Lecture Hall & Into the Classroom: 1992-93 College Graduates & Elementary/Secondary School Teaching, With an Essay on Undergraduate Academic Experiences
- ✓ National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 1995-96: Student Financial Aid Estimates for Federal Aid Recipients, 1995-96
- ✓ Report in Brief: National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 1994 Trends in Academic Progress
- ✓ Overview of Public Elementary & Secondary Schools & Districts: School Year 1994-95
- ✓ A Descriptive Summary of 1992-93 Bachelor's Degree Recipients One Year Later: With an Essay on Time to Degree
- ✓ How Different, How Similar? Comparing Key Organizational Qualities of American Public & Private Secondary Schools
- ✓ Historically Black Colleges & Universities: 1976-1994
- ✓ Degrees & Other Awards Conferred by Institutions of Higher Education, 1993-94

