

EDUCATION, LABOR AWARD \$58.9 MILLION TO GET SCHOOL-TO-WORK GOING

From U.S. Dept. of Education

(WASHINGTON) The U.S. Departments of Education and Labor last week announced the award of \$58 million in School to Work grants to 10 states that are ready to implement systems that prepare students for college and careers.

The grants will support efforts to help students obtain the academic and occupational skills needed to prepare for the postsecondary education and training required for successful careers and high paying jobs.

With last week's awards, a total of 37 states now have received School to Work implementation grants. The states receiving awards in the current round are:

California	\$ 21.9 million
Connecticut	\$ 3.3 million
Louisiana	\$ 4.3 million
Minnesota	\$ 3.8 million
Missouri	\$ 4.6 million
Nevada	\$ 1.9 million
New Mexico	\$ 2.2 million
Rhode Island	\$ 1.9 million
Tennessee	\$ 4.7 million
Texas	\$ 10.3 million

"These grants will help give young people the practical workforce skills and academic knowledge they need to build promising futures," said President Clinton. "School to Work is a sound investment in our youth and our economy."

"School to Work means learning for the future," said U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley. "It expands education opportunities and career options for students by connecting academic achievement and on the job success, and makes lifelong learning a lifetime habit."

"School to Work is an investment in the future of our young people and in America," said U.S. Secretary of Labor Robert B. Reich. "By linking the classroom to the world of work, we are helping students develop the skills they need for successful careers. At the same time, we are training a highly skilled workforce to ensure America's

competitiveness in the world economy."

The grants will be used to implement statewide School to Work plans. For example, the funds may be used to actively involve employers and help them develop work based learning opportunities for students; design and implement challenging secondary school curricula; provide training opportunities for teachers, employers, workplace mentors and counselors; promote partnerships among employers, labor, education, government and community organizations; or work with local groups to introduce students, parents and educators to the connection between classroom activities and learning on the job.

The funds represent the first installment of a five year investment intended to help states and territories get School to Work systems underway at the local level. States receive funds after submitting comprehensive School to Work plans and demonstrating their readiness to implement them. Implementation grants are awarded on a competitive basis to new states, as appropriations permit.

All 50 states, the District of Columbia, and seven U.S. territories received non competitive development grants totaling \$24.3 million in 1994 to design statewide School to Work systems. A development grant may be renewed until a state is ready to compete for, and is awarded, a School to Work implementation grant.

The School to Work Opportunities Act, which passed with bipartisan support in 1994, sunsets in the year 2001 and is jointly administered by the Departments of Education and Labor. School to Work links school improvement with workforce and economic development. It engages students, parents, educators, schools, businesses, labor organizations and communities in designing and implementing a high quality education that integrates challenging academic curricula

and preparation for careers — and reflects local employment opportunities and sources of education and training.

For example, Tennessee has a high level of employer involvement in the School to Work effort, with Lockheed Martin, BellSouth and Saturn taking strong leadership roles. In Minnesota, a union business partnership has established a charter high school to provide students with the academic and workplace skills needed to compete in today's high tech economy. Louisiana is involving out of school youth in School to Work efforts by developing a close working relationship with the New Orleans Job Corps Center. In California, a statewide school to career curriculum that emphasizes early career exploration is being reviewed by the public and should be available to schools in 1997. In Texas, Minnesota and Tennessee, state legislation now connects School to Work initiatives with statewide workforce and economic development efforts.

The real success of School to Work is measured in people like Marsha Dennis, who was in the 11th grade when she entered Boston's ProTech program, a youth apprenticeship School to Work partnership of 10 area hospitals, the Boston Public Schools and the Private Industry Council. While attending English High School and Bunker Hill Community College, she also worked with a mentor as an assistant in a hospital surgery department and a medical library. Now a surgical technician, Dennis credits School to Work with giving her an opportunity to apply what she learned and begin a successful career.

According to a recently released, two year progress report to the U.S. Congress on the implementation of the School to Work Opportunities Act, 500,000 students, 135,000 employers and 1,800 schools throughout the nation are involved in federally funded school to work activities.

WHITE HOUSE HOLIDAY PLANS

From The White House

■(WASHINGTON) White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry, briefing reporters in Manila, said President Clinton will go to Camp David soon after returning to Washington Nov. 27. The schedule calls for the President's return at about 9 a.m. EST on Wednesday. He is expected to remain at Camp David until Sunday, Dec. 1.

As for events at the White House the morning of Nov. 27, McCurry told reporters, "We've got the event with the turkey in the morning, and he'll probably have some discussions with his transition staff before he heads off" for Camp David. The turkey event is the annual presentation to the White House of a Thanksgiving turkey by the turkey growers association; the bird normally winds up with a presidential pardon for Thanksgiving and a new home at a petting farm in Virginia.

"When you sit with a nice girl for two hours, you think it's only a minutes. But when you sit on a hot stove for a minute, you think it's two hours. That's Relativity."

Albert Einstein