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NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA

COMMITTEE ON AWARDS FOR INNOVATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

**October 4, 2016
1:30 pm**

**State Capitol
Room 126
Sacramento, California 95814**

**Barnum Center #144
505 Lasuen Mall
Stanford, California 94305**

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Chair's Report
- III. Agenda Items

Item A: Overview of the Awards for Innovation in Higher Education—Information

Item B: Review and Approval of Application Package—Action

Item C: Schedule of Future Meetings—Action

- IV. Public Comment
- V. Adjournment

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This agenda is posted at http://www.dof.ca.gov/programs/Education/Index_Innovation_Awards.html.

For additional information or responses to questions, please contact:

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The meeting will be streamed live at <http://www.calchannel.com/live-webcast/>.

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To request that this agenda be provided in an alternative format or that a disability-related modification or accommodation be made to allow for participation in this meeting, please send a request, identifying any aids or services needed, to innovationawards@dof.ca.gov by September 30, 2016.

ITEM A: Overview of the Awards for Innovation in Higher Education.

For Information Only

Summary:

Staff will provide an overview of the Awards for Innovation in Higher Education program. This item is presented for the committee's information only.

Background:

The state Budget Act of 2016 includes \$25 million for the Awards for Innovation in Higher Education. Legislation accompanying the budget governs how these funds will be awarded. Specifically, the legislation (1) establishes this committee and (2) requires funds to be awarded for innovations that reduce the time it takes students to complete degrees and credentials, reduce the total cost of attendance for students, or do both, through any of the following:

- Redesign of curriculum and instruction, such as the implementation of three-year bachelor's degrees.
- Programs that allow students to make progress toward completion of degrees and credentials based on their demonstration of knowledge and competencies, including skills acquired through military training, prior learning, and prior experiences.
- Programs that make financial aid more accessible, including by increasing the number of students who apply for financial aid, or that reduce the costs of books and supplies.

The statute requires that the committee give preference to innovations that:

- Improve outcomes for students from groups that are historically underrepresented in higher education, such as low-income students, first-generation college students, students from underrepresented minority groups, students who are current or former foster youth, students with disabilities, and students who are veterans.
- Use technology in ways that are not common in higher education.

While an application for an award may represent the efforts of more than one entity, at least one California community college district or one California community college must be involved in the innovation described in the application.

ITEM B: Review and Approval of Application Package.

For Committee Action

Summary:

Staff will present the application package that will be included as Addendum 1 to this agenda. The committee may approve an application package at this meeting.

(The committee is also providing public notice for a meeting on October 6, 2016. The committee may instead choose to provide direction to staff and then consider final approval of an application package at that meeting.)

Background:

The application package, which will be included as Addendum 1 to this agenda, includes (1) an overview of the program, (2) application instructions, (3) a description of the process that will be used for award selection, and (4) resources for applicants to seek additional information.

The instructions require applicants to submit (1) a cover page containing general information about the applicant and the innovation and (2) narrative responses to eight items. Overall, these items ask an applicant to describe the problem they are trying to solve, the innovation they propose, and the path they will follow to implementation. In total, this narrative may not exceed 10 pages. The proposed deadline for submittal of applications to the committee would be February 3, 2017.

The application package also includes a rubric that would be used to evaluate each submitted application. The rubric specifies that up to 100 points may be awarded in the evaluation of a submitted application based on the following:

- Strength of responses to individual application items—up to 40 points. (Each item includes a corresponding statement of the qualities of a strong response.)
- Overall assessment of:
 - Responsiveness to the state priorities—up to 16 points.
 - Opportunity for significant impact on the program goals—up to 12 points.
 - Degree of creativity—up to 12 points.
 - Efforts to improve outcomes for students from groups historically underrepresented in higher education—up to 8 points.
 - Use of technology in ways not common in higher education—up to 8 points.
 - Quality of written presentation—up to 4 points.

Using that rubric, each application would be reviewed in the following sequence:

1. Each application would be evaluated by two separate readers. Readers would be assigned randomly to applications. (Therefore, the same two readers would not necessarily read multiple applications together.) If the difference between the two initial scores is less than 10 points, these scores would be averaged to produce a final application score.

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2. If the difference between the initial two scores is equal to or greater than 10 points, the application would be read by a third reader. If the difference between the two closest scores (of the three scores) is less than 10 points, those two closest scores would be averaged to produce a final score.
3. If the difference between the two closest scores of the three readers is equal to or greater than 10 points, the application would be read by a fourth reader. The two closest scores would be averaged to produce a final score.

Following this review, staff may request interviews with the applicants who attain the highest scores in the evaluation of their written applications. These interviews would be used to both (1) validate the narrative included in the application and (2) clarify understanding of the innovation.

The application package indicates that each award is expected to be at least \$2.5 million. Staff also may request that applicants provide additional detail about their proposed uses of funds.

Once approved by the committee, an application package will be posted on the program website and distributed to those who have signed up for the program mailing list. Staff also plans to ask that colleges interested in applying for an award provide notice on or before October 31, 2016. Submittal of such a notice would not be required to submit an application but would be used to plan for intake and evaluation of applications.

Staff Recommendation:

If the committee chooses to take action at this meeting, staff recommends that the Committee on Awards for Innovation in Higher Education approve the following:

1. The application package included as Addendum 1 to this agenda is hereby approved.

ITEM C: Approval of Schedule of Future Meetings.

For Committee Action

Summary:

Staff recommends approval of a schedule pursuant to which the committee would meet on March 24, 2017, and April 3, 2017.

Background:

Staff already has provided public notice for a meeting on October 6, 2016. At that meeting, the committee could approve an application package if it does not do so at this meeting.

This item recommends that the committee convene for two additional meetings as follows:

- On March 24, 2017, the committee would consider an overview of the submitted applications, the results of the evaluations of these applications, and a staff recommendation for awards.
- On April 3, 2017, the committee would make final decisions on awards. (This meeting may also provide an opportunity for the committee to formally recognize the award recipients.)

These meetings likely would be held in Sacramento.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Committee on Awards for Innovation in Higher Education approve the following:

1. The Committee on Awards for Innovation in Higher Education will meet on March 24, 2017, and April 3, 2017.