

### Objectives and Duties

1. The Board shall review the work of the private sector contractor(s), which assists the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in administering the Award. The Board will make such suggestions for the improvement of the Award process as it deems necessary.

2. The Board shall provide a written annual report on the results of Award activities to the Secretary of Commerce, along with its recommendations for the improvement of the Award process.

3. The Board will function solely as an advisory committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

4. The Board will report to the Director of NIST and the Secretary of Commerce.

### Membership

1. The Board will consist of approximately eleven members selected on a clear, standardized basis, in accordance with applicable Department of Commerce guidance, and for their preeminence in the field of quality management. There will be a balanced representation from U.S. service and manufacturing industries, education and health care. The Board will include members familiar with the quality improvement operations of manufacturing companies, service companies, small businesses, education, and health care. No employee of the Federal Government shall serve as a member of the Board of Overseers.

2. The Board will be appointed by the Secretary of Commerce and will serve at the discretion of the Secretary. The term of office of each Board member shall be three years. All terms will commence on March 1 and end on February 28 of the appropriate year.

### Miscellaneous

1. Members of the Board shall serve without compensation, but may, upon request, be reimbursed travel expenses, including per diem, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5701 *et seq.*

2. The Board will meet twice annually, except that additional meetings may be called as deemed necessary by the NIST Director or by the Chairperson. Meetings are one day in duration.

3. Board meetings are open to the public. Board members do not have access to classified or proprietary information in connection with their Board duties.

## II. Nomination Information

1. Nominations are sought from the private sector as described above.

2. Nominees should have established records of distinguished service and shall be familiar with the quality improvement operations of manufacturing companies, service companies, small businesses, education, and health care. The category (field of eminence) for which the candidate is qualified should be specified in the nomination letter. Nominations for a particular category should come from organizations or individuals within that category. A summary of the candidate's qualifications should be included with the nomination, including (where applicable) current or former service on federal advisory boards and federal employment. In addition, each nomination letter should state that the person agrees to the nomination, acknowledges the responsibilities of serving on the Board, and will actively participate in good faith in the tasks of the Board. Besides participation at meetings, it is desired that members be able to devote the equivalent of seven days between meetings to either developing or researching topics of potential interest, and so forth, in furtherance of their Board duties.

3. The Department of Commerce is committed to equal opportunity in the workplace and seeks a broad-based and diverse Board membership.

Dated: July 18, 2004.

**Hratch G. Semerjian,**

*Acting Director.*

[FR Doc. 04-17098 Filed 7-27-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-13-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Institute of Standards and Technology

#### Judges Panel of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Request for nominations of members to serve on the Judges Panel of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

**SUMMARY:** NIST invites and requests nomination of individuals for appointment to the Judges Panel of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award (Judges Panel). The terms of some of the members of the Judges Panel will soon expire. NIST will consider nominations received in response to this notice for appointment to the Committee, in addition to nominations already received.

**DATES:** Please submit nominations on or before August 12, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Please submit nominations to Harry Hertz, Director, National Quality Program, NIST, 100 Bureau Drive, Mail Stop 1020, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-1020. Nominations may also be submitted via fax to (301) 948-3716. Additional information regarding the Committee, including its charter, current membership list, and executive summary may be found on its electronic home page at: <http://www.quality.nist.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Harry Hertz, Director, National Quality Program and Designated Federal Official, NIST, 100 Bureau Drive, Mail Stop 1020, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-1020; telephone (301) 975-2361; fax (301) 948-3716; or via e-mail at [harry.hertz@nist.gov](mailto:harry.hertz@nist.gov).

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### I. Judges Panel Information

The Judges Panel was established in accordance with 15 U.S.C. 3711a(d)(1), the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. app. 2), The Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Improvement Act of 1987 (Pub. L. 101-107).

#### Objectives and Duties

1. The Judges Panel will ensure the integrity of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award selection process by reviewing the results of examiners' scoring of written applications, and then voting on which applicants merit site visits by examiners to verify the accuracy of quality improvements claimed by applicants.

2. The Judges Panel will ensure that individuals on site visit teams for the Award finalists have no conflict of interest with respect to the finalists. The Panel will also review recommendations from site visits, and recommend Award recipients.

3. The Judges Panel will function solely as an advisory body, and will comply with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

4. The Panel will report to the Director of NIST.

#### Membership

1. The Judges Panel is composed of at least nine, and not more than twelve, members selected on a clear, standardized basis, in accordance with applicable Department of Commerce guidance. There will be a balanced representation from U.S. service and manufacturing industries, education, and health care and will include members familiar with quality improvement in their area of business.

No employee of the Federal Government shall serve as a member of the Judges Panel.

2. The Judges Panel will be appointed by the Secretary of Commerce and will serve at the discretion of the Secretary. The term of office of each Panel member shall be three years. All terms will commence on March 1 and end on February 28 of the appropriate year.

#### Miscellaneous

1. Members of the Judges Panel shall serve without compensation, but may, upon request, be reimbursed travel expenses, including per diem, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5701 *et seq.*

2. The Judges Panel will meet four times per year. Additional meetings may be called as deemed necessary by the NIST Director or by the Chairperson. Meetings are one to four days in duration. In addition, each Judge must attend an annual three-day Examiner training course.

3. Committee meetings are closed to the public pursuant to Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, as amended by Section 5(c) of the Government in the Sunshine Act, Public Law 94-409, and in accordance with Section 552b(c)(4) of title 5, United States Code. Since the members of the Judges Panel examine records and discuss Award applicant data, the meeting is likely to disclose trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person may be privileged or confidential.

#### II. Nomination Information

1. Nominations are sought from all U.S. service and manufacturing industries, education, and health care as described above.

2. Nominees should have established records of distinguished service and shall be familiar with the quality improvement operations of manufacturing companies, service companies, small businesses, education and health care organizations. The category (field of eminence) for which the candidate is qualified should be specified in the nomination letter. Nominations for a particular category should come from organizations or individuals within that category. A summary of the candidate's qualifications should be included with the nomination, including (where applicable) current or former service on federal advisory boards and federal employment. In addition, each nomination letter should state that the person agrees to the nomination, acknowledge the responsibilities of serving on the Judges Panel, and will

actively participate in good faith in the tasks of the Judges Panel. Besides participation at meetings, it is desired that members be able to devote the equivalent of seventeen days between meetings to either developing or researching topics of potential interest, reading Baldrige applications, and so forth, in furtherance of their Committee duties.

3. The Department of Commerce is committed to equal opportunity in the workplace and seeks a broad-based and diverse Judges Panel membership.

Dated: July 18, 2004.

**Hratch G. Semerjian,**

*Acting Director.*

[FR Doc. 04-17101 Filed 7-27-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-13-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### National Institute of Standards and Technology

##### Manufacturing Extension Partnership National Advisory Board (MEPNAB)

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Request for nominations of members to serve on the Manufacturing Extension Partnership National Advisory Board.

**SUMMARY:** NIST invites and requests nomination of individuals for appointment to the Manufacturing Extension Partnership National Advisory Board. NIST will consider nominations received in response to this notice for appointment to the Board, in addition to nominations already received.

**DATES:** Please submit nominations on or before August 12, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Please submit nominations to Ms. Carrie Hines, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Mail Stop 4800, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-4800. Nominations may also be submitted via fax to (301) 963-6556.

Additional information regarding the Board, including its charter and current membership list may be found on its electronic home page at: <http://www.mep.nist.gov/index-nist.html>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Carrie Hines, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Mail Stop 4800, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-4800; telephone (301) 975-3360, fax (301) 963-6556; or via e-mail at [carrie.hines@nist.gov](mailto:carrie.hines@nist.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Board will advise the Director of the National

Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) on MEP programs, plans, and policies.

The Board will consist of nine individuals appointed by the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) under the advisement of the Director of MEP. Membership on the Board shall be balanced to represent the views and needs of customers, providers, and others involved in industrial extension throughout the United States.

The Board will function solely as an advisory body, in compliance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

**Authority:** Federal Advisory Committee Act: 5 U.S.C. App. 2 and General Services Administration Rule: 41 CFR Subpart 101-6.10.

Dated: July 18, 2004.

**Hratch G. Semerjian,**

*Action Director.*

[FR Doc. 04-17099 Filed 7-27-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-13-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### National Institute of Standards and Technology

##### National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program Workshop for Laboratories Interested in the Help America Vote Act

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Workshop notice.

**SUMMARY:** The National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) will hold a public workshop on August 17, 2004, at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in Gaithersburg, MD. The purpose of the workshop is the exchange of information among NVLAP, laboratories interested in seeking accreditation for the testing of voting systems under the Help America Vote Act, and other interested parties. The results of the workshop discussions will be used in the development of the NVLAP Voting Systems Laboratory Accreditation Program (Voting LAP).

There is no charge for the workshop but pre-registration is required. A registration form can be found at <http://vote.nist.gov>.

**ADDRESSES:** National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program, 100 Bureau Drive/MS 2140, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-2140.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeffrey Horlick, Program Manager, NVLAP, 100 Bureau Drive/MS 2140,