

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**  
**TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT**

Tennessee State University, through a Department of Energy Grant (DE-FG02-94EW11428), maintains responsibility for the production of the Minority Serving Institutions Technical Assistance and Capacity Conference. The goal and mission of the conference are to inform the Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) community about partnerships, compliance/regulatory requirements, broadband programs, and funding opportunities with Federal agencies. The intent is to enhance the relationship between MSI and the government. The conference will provide the MSI representatives from the institutions with an opportunity to interact with program officers and other staff members from the U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the National Science Foundation, U.S. Agency for International Development, and other federal agencies. In addition, the interactive workshop/conference will provide MSIs with an opportunity to interact with the federal agencies and learn how the institutions can expand their participation in federally funded programs and gain knowledge of the government critical skills requirement.

This conference will help the Federal agencies in satisfying their long term and short term goals. In general, the Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) Program administers a myriad of Departmental initiatives to support partnerships with institutions of higher learning pursuant to the following Executive Orders: Executive Order (E.O.) 13256, February 2002, (President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities); E.O. 13230, October 2001, (President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans); E.O. 13270, July 2003, (Tribal Colleges and Universities); and E.O. 13096, April 2004, (American Indian and Alaska Native Education). These initiatives help strengthen institutional infrastructure so MSIs are competitive in terms of the quality of their academic programs and access to federal funding.