FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

GARY CHARTRAND, *Chair*
JOHN R. PADGET, *Vice Chair*
Members
ADA G. ARMAS, M.D.
JOHN A. COLÓN
BARBARA S. FEINGOLD
KATHLEEN SHANAHAN

Pam Stewart
Commissioner of Education

December 17, 2013

Chris Minnich
Executive Director
Council of Chief State School Officers
One Massachusetts Ave. NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Minnich:

I am pleased to inform you of an exciting academic tournament for students across the United States, the National Tournament of Academic Excellence (NTAE). This academic tournament, formerly the Panasonic Academic Challenge, will be held at the Convention Center of Walt Disney World's Contemporary Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Florida on June 14 – 16, 2014.

The NTAE showcases the excellence of the U.S. educational system and rewards individual scholastic achievement of student participants. The tournament hosts teams from many states, as well as teams from the District of Columbia, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. State teams that have been named national champions include those from Florida, Illinois, Maryland and Virginia. These teams represented America's best and brightest scholars.

Funding is being gradually assembled from the Florida Department of Education and other sources. The contributions will be used in the form of team grants to reduce the cost to each participating team. The exact amount of each grant will depend upon the number of teams and total amount of secured funding; however, the per-team allocation is projected to be $1,720. It is my hope that these grants will facilitate participation, allowing an increased number of states to compete for the title of national champion.

At this time, I am asking for your assistance relaying this information to the members of the Council of Chief State School Officers. Please include the attached contact form in any communications you

send, with instructions to return the completed form to Lisa W. Rawls, Academic Competitions Coordinator. I encourage you to support these outstanding young scholars and experience the excitement generated at the NTAE by students, coaches and judges alike.

If you require additional information, please feel free to contact Lisa W. Rawls by phone at 863-968-5168 or email at lisa.rawls@polk-fl.net. Information can also be found online at http://www.academic-challenge.org/ntae/index.html.

Thank you,

Pam Stewart

Pam Stewart

Attachment