PEN-International
For Students Who Are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing

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PEN-International Summer Leadership Institute for deaf and hard of hearing students

To: All NTID Technical, Baccalaureate and Graduate Students
From: Denise Kavin, PEN-International (tty 5-4661, dkavin@mail.rit.edu)
Date: 21 March 2005
Subject: PEN-International Summer Leadership Institute 2006

PEN-International would like to encourage you to apply for one of four very exciting scholarships. These scholarships will support student travel to England for one week in August 2006 to participate in an international summer leadership institution for 20 deaf and hard of hearing students from the USA, China, Japan, Russia, and the Philippines.

Attached to this memo are a description of the program and a description of the process for applying. We will use the criteria described to choose four outstanding deaf students to participate. These four students, one faculty member, and 2 interpreters will form a delegation. This delegation will represent NTID and the USA at the Summer Institute, which will take place at Herstmonceux Castle in East Sussex, England.

PEN-International would like to encourage you to apply if you meet the selection criteria.
PEN-International Student Ambassadors

For whom?

Four student representatives from each of the following PEN partner institutions:

- National Technical Institute for the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology, USA
- Bauman Moscow State Technical University, Russia
- Tsukuba College of Technology, Japan
- Tianjin University of Technology, China
- College of St. Benilde, Philippines

Who is this being hosted by?

The Nippon Foundation of Japan has provided NTID with funding to establish and run PEN-International—an international postsecondary education network of universities and colleges around the world educating students who are deaf (www.pen.ntid.rit.edu).

This program is a first-of-its-kind international partnership of colleges and universities serving deaf and hard of hearing students, utilizing web technology, faculty training, telecommunications technology, and information and instructional technology to improve teaching and learning, increase the use of technology, and expanding career opportunities for deaf and hard of hearing students. PEN currently has partner institutions in China, Japan, Russia, and the Philippines, and also works in Thailand and the Czech Republic.

What is the Summer Leadership Institute?

A new, exciting component of PEN-International is a Summer Leadership Institute for deaf and hard of hearing students. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first-of-its-kind multinational leadership institute for postsecondary men and women who are deaf ever to take place. We anticipate that this will become a biannual activity.

Therefore, in August 2006, a delegation of four students, one faculty sponsor, two spoken language interpreters, and two sign language interpreters from each of PEN’s partner institutions will convene for one week at Herstmonceux Castle in East Sussex, England.
What is the purpose of the Summer Leadership Institute?

The major goal of the summer institute is: to promote development of leadership and self advocacy skills among student leaders from our four major partner institutions in the areas of support services in postsecondary education, general access, and employment. Deaf cultural awareness will also be a part of the summer institute. Because of globalization of the world economy, an international exchange of students is considered an excellent way to expose students to the realities of the world they will face after graduation.

Students who attend the institute will participate in presentations, discussions, and hands-on activities offered primarily by deaf faculty and professionals.

What will be covered?

Participants will be provided with room, board, airline transportation, airport transfers, local transportation and admission for planned activities as a part of the Summer Leadership Institute. In addition, the cost of visas and supplemental health insurance for travel abroad will be covered by the scholarship. Participants will be responsible for all their own incidental expenses. All members of the delegation will travel together to and from the home university on the same itinerary. No provisions for other travel arrangements will be permitted.

What are the dates for the Summer Leadership Institute?

5 to 12 August 2006 (dates are subject to change by two or three days)

How can a student be eligible?

Four (4) students from NTID/RIT’s technical or baccalaureate programs will be selected to participate.

1. Deaf or hard-of-hearing NTID/RIT students may apply.
2. Priority will be given in selection to US Nationals and Permanent Residents.
3. Priority will be given in selection to students who have been at NTID/RIT for two years or more.
4. Priority will be given in selection to students not graduating until May 2007 or later.
What are the various criteria for selection?

In order to apply a student must:

1. Submit a current grade report that shows a Cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher and maintain that average.
2. Have no record of judicial misconduct
3. Have demonstrated the ability to deal with diverse people and situations, and possess a demonstrated characteristic of personal flexibility
4. Submit a written essay of no more than 500 words or a videotape of no more than five minutes—due in A.G. Bell A-260, the PEN-international Office, no later than 5:00 p.m. 14 October 2005. Late submissions will not be accepted.

The essay or videotape must:

   a. Outline what the applicant expects to gain from participation
   b. Describe what the applicant has to offer by participating in the Summer Leadership Institute
   c. Explain what the applicant will do upon return to the USA with what s/he learns from this experience

5. Submit two confidential letters of recommendation from NTID/RIT faculty members that address selection criterion #3 and any other issues a faculty member wishes to address. This should be submitted at the PEN-International Office in A.G. Bell A-260 no later than 5:00 p.m. 14 October 2005. Late submissions will not be accepted.
6. Provide an address, phone number and e-mail address where he/she can be reached at all times, and during the months of May to August, 2006.

What is the selection process?

The following steps will be followed in the selection of finalists and alternates:

1. Announcement of competition is published at NTID on or about 21 March 2005.
2. Application materials are due to the PEN-International Office (LBJ-1615) no later than 5:00 p.m. 14 October 2005. Letters of recommendation are due no later than 5:00 p.m. 14 October 2005.
3. Screening committee reviews all essays/videos and selects the top 10-12 candidates, placing them in rank order—completed by 6 January 2006. The screening committee will be comprised of the NTID faculty and staff who will accompany the delegation—individuals to be determined.
4. Selection committee (individuals to be determined) selects four students who should participate and two alternates and submits the names to the director of PEN-International for final approval by 1 February 2006.
5. Notification of Students will occur on or before 1 March 2005.

What are the expectations for the student ambassadors?

1. Student ambassadors will participate in mandatory orientation sessions that will be held at NTID (dates to be determined). The inability to participate will result in replacement as a student ambassador.
2. Each student ambassador will develop a journal of his/her trip (written, photo, video or other format agreed upon). These journals will be posted on the PEN-International WWW site.
3. Student ambassadors will conform to a code of conduct that will be established by the delegation as a whole.
4. All “free time” activities will be planned and carried out by the delegation as a group. There will be no “on your own time activities”.
5. Student ambassadors will be assigned other duties and responsibilities as determined.
6. Each student ambassador will submit a final report to the PEN-International Office (date to be determined). These final reports will be posted on the PEN-International WWW site.
7. Student ambassadors will work as a team to prepare and offer a delegation presentation to the NTID community during academic year 2006-2007.