National Emergency Training Center
16825 S. Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, MD 21727-8998

FEMA

R826

Dear National Fire Academy Student:

Congratulations on being accepted into the U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Academy Volunteer Incentive Program's *Presenting Effective Public Education Programs* course, a 6-day class. The Academy is proud to offer this course to beginning public educators whose responsibilities in community safety education are presenting educational programs to local audiences. You will have a unique opportunity to learn new skills and information, network with other public educators, and receive feedback on all aspects of the course.

Please take a couple of minutes to read the enclosed description and requirements for successful course completion. You will notice that the course emphasizes learning exercises that deal with your home community, as well as the delivery of a 10-minute presentation. In order for you to effectively complete these requirements, it is necessary to bring several items to class.

We are asking that you bring with you to class the following items if they are available:

1. A copy of your organization's mission statement;
2. A copy of any prevention or public education policies which are in effect in your organization;
3. A list of the high priority community education topics in your community;
4. A list of topics that you are interested in making a presentation on during the course; and
5. Examples of unique programs used in your local community prevention for sharing with other students.

Please note that the Academy will be providing a very limited amount of materials, such as lesson plans, props, etc. Therefore, you may wish to bring additional materials, including lesson plans from a program, in support of this presentation.

It is important to note that this is a 6-day course, and the first day of class will begin on Sunday at approximately 8:30 a.m. just after orientation. Orientation will normally commence at 8:00 a.m.; however, make sure you confirm this when you check in. Subsequent classes meet daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with graduation occurring on Friday at 4 p.m. Adjust your travel plans to arrive early or to stay later if you wish to tour the Washington, DC, or Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, areas. Students who plan to arrive in the area earlier or depart later should be aware that we will not be able to provide transportation or on-campus housing to meet such adjusted travel plans.

Departure from campus is scheduled for Saturday morning. Students flying home need to reference the bright pink travel information sheet that accompanied your acceptance letter for details on times of departure, scheduling flight times, and which airports have campus shuttle service for this offering. Students who wish to fly out after graduation on Friday evening may do so but are responsible for their own transportation arrangements to the airport.

Increasing numbers of students and instructors are bringing laptop computers to campus. You alone are responsible for the security and maintenance of your equipment. The Academy cannot provide you with computer software, hardware, or technical support to include disks, printers, scanners, etc. There is a limited number of 120 Volt AC outlets in the classrooms. A Student Computer Lab is located in Building D and is available for all students to use. It is open daily with technical support provided in the evenings. This lab uses Windows XP and Office 2003 as the software standard.. You may want to bring a few blank CD-RW (Rewritable CDs) discs with you.

Should you need additional information related to course content or requirements, please feel free to contact Mr. Gerry Bassett, Training Specialist, at (800) 238-3358, extension 1094 or (301) 447-1094 or email at gerry.bassett@dhs.gov. Should you need information concerning the VIP Program or have questions concerning technology equipment within the classrooms, please contact Mr. Terry Glunt, VIP Program Manager, at (800) 238-3358, extension 1402 or (301) 447-1402 or email at terry.glunt@dhs.gov

Sincerely,

Dr. Denis Onieal, Superintendent
National Fire Academy
U.S. Fire Administration

Enclosure

Presenting Effective Public Education Programs

Course Description

This is a full 6-day course for local volunteer community educators whose primary responsibilities in community education are presentation of educational programs to public audiences. The course is designed for participants who are engaged in fire, burn, injury prevention or general community safety programs. The course takes the viewpoint that public educators at this level do not develop their own programs, but are utilizing or modifying existing educational programs.

A look at the local public educator's responsibilities is presented with emphasis on the presentation skills. Course structure is organized around the planning, implementation and evaluation functions a typical public educator performs as relating to delivery.

The course is an activity-based course as opposed to a lecture-based course. Participants work in small groups to solve problems. Learning exercises are created to stimulate thought and discussion, and are focused on the course content and the student's home community.

The course emphasizes a community-based concept in developing and delivering educational programs. Participants learn to make the best use of their community to effectively support their program efforts. They also acquire skills in how to analyze neighborhoods, how to identify threats and groups who are at risk, and how to target specific audiences toward program objectives.

Principles of learning are stressed in order to facilitate basic instructional skills. Also, a brief but important unit teaches the participant how to evaluate the effectiveness of the presentations.

The highlight of the course is the 10-minute student presentations on various fire, burn, or injury prevention topics.

Please do not work on presentation material as preparation for this class. Opportunities will be provided in class for you to work on your presentation. Requirements of the presentation will be discussed in class.

NFA WELCOME PACKAGE

Below is information to help you plan your travel to the National Emergency Training Center (NETC). Even if you've taken classes at NETC previously, please read it carefully. ***The procedures may have changed since you were here last, and you will be responsible for complying with the current procedures.*** The last page of this package is entitled "CONTACT INFORMATION." We suggest you print it and provide a copy to your family and office staff in case they need to contact you **while you are here**. Although *friends or family* ***may not*** *stay in Housing*, they are welcome to attend graduation. Please contact Security before their arrival for current security protocol required for their entry to NETC campus.

If you have any questions, you may call us at either (800) 238-3358 or (301) 447-1000. When you reach the operator, ask for the appropriate extension:

- **Housing/Transportation---1048/1113**
- **Admissions---1035**
- **Food Service (Guest Services)---1551**
- **Security---1111**

You may send an email to:

- **Housing/Transportation: NETC-Housing@dhs.gov**
- **Admissions: NETC-admissions@dhs.gov**
- **Food Service: NETC-cafeteria@dhs.gov**

If you need to fax information to any of the following offices, please note the following fax numbers:

- **Housing/Transportation: (301) 447-1324**
- **Admissions: (301) 447-1441**
- **Food Service: (301) 447-6944**

SECURITY

Due to increased security precautions, students should bring two photo ID's to campus. PLEASE HAVE THEM WITH YOU, NOT IN YOUR BAGGAGE! If you do not have the photo ID's, you will not be permitted on campus. Security checks will delay your registration at the NETC.

If you are a student from a foreign country, please be prepared to show your passport or visa at registration.

Firearms: Prohibited on campus!
Due to heightened security requirements, please understand that security and law enforcement personnel may search you, your vehicle or your luggage. Maryland law is very narrow in its definition of law enforcement officers who may carry firearms. For your own protection, and to expedite your processing into the NETC, **do not bring weapons of any kind to campus.** Weapons include knives with blades longer than 3 inches, machete, bow & arrows, ammunition, rifles, shotguns, pistols, etc. Sworn/commissioned, and state POST certified officers and federal officers, or local officers with concurrent jurisdiction who require a firearm for the performance of required official duties must obtain an exception from the Director of Support Services prior to arrival on campus. If you arrive at NETC with weapons of any kind without prior approval, your entry to campus will be significantly delayed.

Alcoholic Beverages: Consumption of alcoholic beverages is limited to the Pub & Log Cabin. Alcohol is not allowed in lodging rooms or vehicles, and will be confiscated. If you arrive at NETC with, or are attempting to bring alcohol on campus, your entry to campus could be significantly delayed.

TRAVEL

TRAVEL BY AIR:

- You **must** make your own travel arrangements.
- You **must** be sure your flights meet the shuttle pickup/departure times, and the ticket purchase follows the parameters of travel as defined under "**REIMBURSEMENT**" in this package.

NETC SHUTTLE SERVICE:

- Shuttle service is available between NETC and the airport(s) listed on the "COURSE SPECIFIC INFORMATION" sheet – a pink page enclosed with the acceptance letter you received for this class. **Read it carefully before making flight arrangements!**

- If you need bus transportation to NETC from the airport, you should plan to arrive at least 1 hour before bus departure time. **You must notify (email, phone or fax) the NETC Transportation Office at least 2 weeks prior to the course start-date to reserve a seat. IF YOU DO NOT CALL, SEATING MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE AND TRANSPORTATION TO EMMITSBURG WILL BE AT YOUR OWN EXPENSE.**

- **Our transportation will be either a motor coach/charter bus identified with NETC signage in the front window/door, or a maroon passenger van with the NETC signage in the front window.** You may contact the NETC Transportation Office a day before your arrival to inquire as to which vehicle will be used. For airport security reasons, **our drivers cannot leave their vehicles** and must circle the airport pickup area**, SO YOU WILL NEED TO LOOK FOR THE BUS OR VAN.** ***If you do not see the vehicle 5 minutes prior to the pickup time, please call the NETC Transportation Office for guidance.***

SHUTTLE PICKUP POINTS AT EACH AIRPORT: *(check your pink "Course Specific Information" sheet as to which airport you may use.* ***You can ONLY use an airport listed on that sheet!*** *Ground transportation from other airports may be at your own expense. If your* ***scheduled arrival time*** *does not coincide with the shuttle schedule, ground transportation will be at your own expense as well.)*

- **Ronald Reagan National Airport (DCA):** Pickup is near the Travelers' Aid Desk in Terminal 'B' (Lower Level, between gates 5 & 6). **Buses and vans** depart from the outside lane. If you arrive in Terminal 'A' please take the Economy/Rental Car airport bus shuttle to Terminal 'B', lower level, or walk across the terminal connector and go downstairs to exit door number 5, on your left.
- **Baltimore/Washington International Airport (BWI):** Pickup is near the Lower Level Baggage Areas 13 & 14. There is not a Travelers' Aid Desk in this location. Buses and vans depart from the outside lane. BWI Airport is currently undergoing construction. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the NETC Transportation Office or visit the BWI website at: **http:**//www.bwiairpport.com/customer_assistance/lower_level_terminal-map
- **Dulles International Airport (IAD):** There is a Traveler's Aid Desk between Baggage Claim Areas 4 & 5 on the baggage level, located at the east end of the terminal. Go up the ramp and out exit-door number 6.

DELAYED FLIGHTS: If you are scheduled to use NETC transportation, but your flight is delayed for other than weather-related reasons, the airline is responsible for your transportation. If they will not transport you, please call the NETC Transportation Office when you arrive at the airport (it will be approximately 2 hours before we can pick you up). **If you choose not to use NETC transportation and arrange for other transportation, it will be at your own expense.**

IF DRIVING:

- You may arrive on campus any time after 12:30 p.m. the day before your course begins.
- You must depart campus after the end of your course, except for courses with a next-day departure date.
- Your vehicle must be registered at Housing/Security for stipend/security reasons, even if you do not stay on campus.
- **There are no connections for mobile homes or recreational vehicles available at NETC.**

DIRECTIONS TO NETC:

- **From Baltimore**: I-695 (Baltimore Beltway) to I-70 West (towards Frederick) to Route 15 North to Emmitsburg. Left turn off Route 15 to South Seton Avenue. 2nd Right onto campus (tree-lined drive).
- **From Washington**: I-495 (Washington Beltway) to I-270 North (towards Frederick) to Route 15 North to Emmitsburg. Left turn off Route 15 to South Seton Avenue. 2nd Right onto campus (tree-lined drive).
- **From Philadelphia and East**: Pennsylvania Turnpike West to Harrisburg, Exit 236 (Route 15). Go South on Route 15 to Emmitsburg. Right turn off Route 15 to South Seton Avenue. 2nd Right onto campus (tree-lined drive).
- **From Pittsburgh and West**: Pennsylvania Turnpike East to Harrisburg, Exit 236 (Route 15). Go South on Route 15 to Emmitsburg. Right turn off Route 15 to South Seton Avenue. 2nd Right onto campus (tree-lined drive).

REGISTRATION

Where do I register?

- Class, dormitory, and vehicle registration will take place in Building C Lobby.
- Since you may have to walk some distance to your room, we recommend you bring luggage with wheels.

If I am claiming stipend reimbursement, what do I need to provide at registration?

- **A copy of a check for an *account that bears your name.* Deposit slips or accounts for an organization or another individual are not acceptable**; a copy of a check is the best source for the correct financial information.
- We've found it speeds up registration if you fax the information to the Admissions Office (301) 447-1441 **prior** to your course start date. Please include your name, Social Security Number, and course code/title/date on the fax along with your vehicle or flight information. Please be sure that the copy is legible.
- If your account is with a credit union, or if the account is payable through another bank, please have the bank provide you with the routing and account numbers for ACH deposit.
- If you incurred additional expenses for transportation/lodging/meal costs, **you must receive prior written approval** to be eligible for reimbursement of these expenses. If approved, **original receipts must** be presented at the time of your arrival.
- **If traveling by air or train you will need:**
  - **A copy of your ticket** that shows an itinerary of your trip indicates proof that the ticket was purchased at least 21-days in advance of the course travel date, and is non-refundable.
  - If you have an electronic ticket, you must submit the itinerary/receipt (with ticket number and actual ticket amount shown as having been paid).
- **If driving, you will also need to provide:**
  - Automobile registration
  - Odometer readings
  - License tag number
  - A signed statement from the owning agency on letterhead stationery acknowledging your eligibility for reimbursement, if you are driving a state, county or municipal vehicle
  - If you drove to NETC, but you will not be keeping your car on campus, it **must be registered on campus or you *will not*** receive reimbursement.

What if I am here for back-to-back courses?

- You will be housed in the same room for the entire length of the stay. If you stay off-campus and do not purchase a meal ticket for the time between the courses, you must check out of housing after the first course ends (turn in the keycard and remove your belongings), and be assigned a new room upon your return.
- **If you choose to leave campus between courses,** any additional expenses that you may incur shall remain your responsibility.

LODGING

Must I call to make a lodging reservation?

- Once you are accepted into a course, you will be assigned a room. Because of the random assignment, you may or may not be lodged in the same building as your classmates.
- A room on the NETC campus will be reserved for you. If you are a non-DHS Federal employee your Travel Authorization should state that "Housing will be provided to the traveler at NETC" (currently $20 to $30 per night), payable upon arrival to NETC. If Housing is not available at NETC a "Certificate of Non-Availability will be issued by NETC. If you are a foreign student, private sector representative, or contractor to a State or local government entity, you are responsible for your own travel and per diem costs, and lodging (currently $20 to $30 per night), payable upon arrival to NETC. USFA accepts credit card payment (VISA, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express) for lodging. If you are a DHS employee (includes DAE/SAE's), you must present a copy of your travel authorization at registration, and you should read the FEMA instructions, policies and comptroller grams dealing with travel to NETC. Your travel authorization should state that "Housing will be provided to the traveler at NETC at no cost". If lodging on the NETC campus is not needed, you must notify the Housing Office in writing at NETC-Housing@dhs.gov. Failure to notify the Housing Office that lodging is not needed will result in you being charged for the room for the length of the course.
- If you are a Federal employee participating in a course at NETC, a dormitory room will be reserved for you. If you do not require lodging at NETC, you must notify the Housing Office in writing at NETC-Housing@dhs.gov. You must make this notification upon receipt of your acceptance letter. Failure to notify the Housing Office that lodging is not needed will result in your being charged for the room for the length of the course.
- We make every effort to ensure you have a single room. However, if the student count is high, you may be doubled with another student. PLEASE DO NOT CALL TO REQUEST A SINGLE ROOM.
- **Disabilities/Special Accommodations:** Students who mark "yes" in block 11 of the application form must submit in writing, from their physician or medical attendant on official stationery, what specific accommodation(s) is needed. This must be done no later than 2 weeks prior to your arrival. Security is responsible for providing emergency medical services. **Any student, even those who marked "no" in block 11, who may have special needs in the event of an emergency, should consider notifying Security upon arrival to the campus.**

Is there a charge for lodging?

- No, not if you are eligible for stipend reimbursement **or if you are a DHS federal traveler** (see "Reimbursement" section).
- If you DO have to pay for lodging, the current charge is $30/day.
- NETC Housing accepts cash, personal check, travelers check, and credit card (American Express, VISA, MasterCard and Discover).

What if I want to stay off campus? If you choose to stay off campus, it will be at your own expense. You will still need to purchase a break ticket from **the food service contractor** for the length of your class.

What amenities are in each room?

- Private bathroom
- TV and clock radio
- Refrigerator
- Linens and towels, with daily housekeeping service.
- Telephone with voice mail
- A telephone jack is located in each room for dial-up Internet access. Check with your Internet Service Provider (ISP) for local calling area access. Out-of-area ISP accessibility will require credit card, third party or collect billing for access from NETC. You should consider bringing a longer cord (10 ft.) if you are bringing your laptop computer. Some courses require students to bring reports or projects to be shared with the class. It is convenient to bring that information in an electronic format. NETC can support CD-ROM, USB devices and 3-1/2" floppy storage. USB devices will be scanned before being allowed to connect to Government equipment.

Additional costs you could incur during your stay:

- Laundry and vending machines; dry cleaner costs
- Recreation Association pass ($1) allows use of all recreation facilities and Pub (see section on NETC Recreation Association)
- Class Shirts or Group Donations
- Off campus class dinners

Are there laundry facilities available?

- Yes, there are coin-operated washers and dryers in each lodging building (change available at the convenience store on campus).
- You may purchase laundry supplies at the convenience store on campus.

Are family, friends or pets allowed in the lodging rooms on campus?

- No, **only the assigned NETC student** is allowed in the room. Relatives or friends are not allowed in the rooms, and cannot be lodged on campus. Upon request, the NETC Housing Office will provide information regarding local off campus accommodations; however, you are responsible for arranging and paying for those accommodations.
- Animals are not allowed in campus housing, except for seeing-eye and other service dogs. Please notify the housing office at least 2 weeks in advance if you will be bringing a guide/service dog.

What time must I check out of my room? Check out time is **9:00 a.m.** You may leave your luggage in your room until 9:30 a.m., but it must be packed and by the door. When you return for your luggage, please **do not** use the bathroom facilities if the room has already been cleaned for the next occupant. Please return your key card to the front desk by 9:30 a.m.--you will no longer have access to your room after that time.

DRESS CODE

It is each student's responsibility to use good judgment in selecting attire which projects a professional image, and is appropriate for both climate differences and classroom activities. Generally, the standard is business casual. NFA staff have the authority to make a determination that a student's attire may be inappropriate. Students whose attire is determined to be inappropriate will be required to change into more appropriate clothing before being allowed to continue class.

Acceptable Attire for Classroom Settings:

- **Males:** Shirts with collars; dress jeans; departmental uniforms; shoes and socks.
  T-shirts, including departmental T-shirts, are not acceptable.

- **Females:** Dresses; blouses; slacks; capris; dress jeans; skirts; skorts; departmental uniforms; and shoes.
  T-shirts, including departmental T-shirts, are not acceptable.

Acceptable Attire for Graduation:

- **Males:** Suits; sports coats; dress shirts with ties or class shirts; dress slacks, or departmental dress uniforms.

- **Females:** Suits or dresses; blouses or class shirts with dress slacks or skirts; or departmental dress uniforms.

Shorts, tank tops, ball caps, etc., are not permitted in the classrooms, auditorium, or dining hall. Bathing suits/trunks are not permitted outside the pool area. No mini skirts. Bare midriffs are not acceptable.

ADMISSIONS POLICIES

Attendance:

- **You are required to attend all sessions of the course.** If you do not, you may not receive a certificate and your stipend may be denied.
- NFA students are limited to one reimbursable trip per fiscal year (Oct 1-Sep 30). If you wish to attend a second NFA class (at your own expense) a letter to that effect must accompany the second application stating that you are waiving your stipend reimbursement.

Substitutions:

- **Substitutions for NFA courses are made from waiting lists;** slots do not belong to the departments.
- All requests to consider an equally qualified person must be in writing and be accompanied by a completed General Admissions Application (FEMA Form 75-5) for the substitute.

Cancellations or No-Shows: NFA's mission for delivery of courses is impaired significantly by cancellations and no-shows. It is very difficult and costly to recruit students at the last minute. Currently there is a 2-year ban on student attendance for students who are no-shows or cancel within 30 days of the course start date without a valid reason. If you receive such a restriction, your **supervisor** needs to send a letter to Admissions explaining the cancellation/no-show.

NETC POLICIES/INFORMATION

Conduct:

- Federal Regulations (available at the LRC).
- FEMA and NETC Instructions (available at C Lobby, dormitory rooms, and on NETC Intranet web site).

Smoking:

- All buildings on campus are **NON-SMOKING**, with the exception of the solarium portion of the Command Post Pub.
- If you smoke in your room, **you will** be asked to leave campus, relinquish your stipend reimbursement, and be charged to clean the room.

Medical services:

- All medical expenses are your responsibility.
- Local hospitals accept medical insurance identification, cash, check, or major credit card.
- If you do not have proof of insurance, expect that payment may be a prerequisite to possible treatment.
- International students should be prepared to pay for medical services in the event the hospital or provider does not accept foreign insurance coverage.

Student Word Processing Center (located in D Basement):

- Provides IBM® compatible Microcomputers with Internet access and printing capabilities.
- Systems utilize Microsoft Windows XP with Microsoft's Office Suite 2003.
- The center is open from 6:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m. every day. There is a technician available Mondays-Fridays from 5:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m., and from 8:00 a.m. till noon on Saturdays.

Learning Resource Center: Located in Building N, the LRC provides current information and resources on fire and emergency management subjects. With its collection of more than 100,000 books, reports, periodicals, and audiovisual materials, the LRC facilitates and supports student and faculty research and supplements classroom lectures and course materials. While classes are in session, the Schedule of Hours for the LRC is as follows:

Monday-Thursday	8:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Friday	8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Sunday	12:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Telephones:

- Outgoing calls can be placed from your lodging room via calling card, collect, or third-party billing.
- ***You are not allowed to accept collect calls on campus phones. Any and all expenses related to phone use shall remain your responsibility.***

Faxes:

- Fax services are available at the convenience store for a fee.
- You may receive fax messages up to 4 pages in the Housing Office at (301) 447-1324.
- Anything over 4 pages will not be forwarded by Housing. Please use the fax service available at the convenience store, or have it sent by overnight mail.

Automatic Teller Machine: Located in D basement outside of O'Leary's Emporium, and at various locations off campus. Inquire at the registration desk at Building C for additional directions.

Public Transportation: Limited service. Inquire at the registration desk at Building C.

Car Rentals: You may contact the campus convenience store at (301) 447-1493 to arrange car rentals at your expense.

NETC Recreation Association: On the NETC campus, the NETC Recreation Association operates a Pub providing beverage and limited food service each evening. The Pub is a private club under Maryland liquor laws and membership in the Recreation Association is required for service. The cost is $1.00 per campus stay and membership cards can be obtained from the Pub. Other items provided by the Recreation Association to its members and funded by sale of membership cards and Pub items include:

- Athletic equipment such as softball equipment, volleyballs, basketballs, golf clubs, and fishing equipment
- Keg service for special occasions such as cookouts
- Propane and replacement parts for the gas grills
- Acquisition and maintenance of the Christmas lights at the entrance to the campus
- Karaoke entertainment
- Maintenance of special stage lighting in the Student Center
- Assistance with maintenance of the bicycles
- Bicycle helmets
- Maintenance of the billiard tables and equipment
- Large screen television in the Pub
- Games in the Student Center

NETC recreational activities include:

- Gym with running track
- Exercise room
- Swimming pool
- Tennis/basketball/volleyball (sand and inside) courts
- Bicycles are available in Building H for use by Recreation Association members

Nearby points of interest/recreational facilities (in season):

- National/State parks
- Historic Gettysburg (tours available)
- Golf
- Swimming
- Snow skiing

REIMBURSEMENT

Frequently asked questions/answers about reimbursement procedures are enclosed. Please read them carefully. If you have any questions about your eligibility to receive a stipend please contact Admissions either by email at netc-admissions@dhs.gov or by phone at (301) 447-1035.

Any exceptions to travel **must be requested in writing and faxed along with documentation to (301) 447-1441, AND approved in writing prior to making your travel arrangements.** Otherwise**,** your stipend may be denied or limited to the state ceiling amount.

Who is eligible for reimbursement?

- State, local or Tribal government representatives
- Recognized volunteer organization representatives
- Active emergency management organization representatives
- Representatives from State or local fire organizations
- **If you do not apply for a stipend reimbursement within 60 days following the course start date your stipend reimbursement will be denied.**

Who is NOT eligible for stipend reimbursement?

- Federal government (federal students are subject to federal travel regulations and travel under orders prepared by their office)
- Private Industry employees
- Employees who are contracted to Federal, State or local government entities (such as Rural Metro departments)
- Representatives of a foreign organization

How will I be reimbursed?

- Reimbursement will be electronically deposited into the checking or savings account that you identify.
- **Reimbursement will only be made to an account that bears your name**. You are responsible for reimbursing your department, if applicable. This is a result of increased restrictions by the receiving financial institutions.
- **If you do not have a personal account, please contact the Admissions office prior to your arrival for further instructions.**

If I fail the course, will I be reimbursed?

- If eligible for a stipend, you **will** be reimbursed for the course you failed.
- If you reapply to either EMI or NFA and are accepted, no stipend will be paid for that course, and you will be required to pay for lodging. Once you successfully complete a course, you will once again be eligible to receive a stipend for future courses.

If I fly, what will I be reimbursed? You will be reimbursed the cost of a direct (no side-trips or extended stays), **21-day prior to the course travel date pre-purchase**, **non-refundable** ticket for round/trip transportation by common carrier (economy coach class or less) for each course or back-to-back courses that you attend. Proof of non-refundable fare is required!

- ***If you take side trips or travel outside of the defined travel days,*** your reimbursement shall be limited to **no more than** the state ceiling amount as noted on the enclosed Reimbursement Ceiling Chart.
- ***To eliminate the perception of misuse of government funds, FIRST CLASS, BUSINESS CLASS and REFUNDABLE AIRLINE TICKETS WILL NOT BE REIMBURSED AT FULL FARE***, unless you request, in writing, an exception PRIOR to making your travel arrangements, and have received a written approval. Otherwise, your reimbursement will be limited up to the state ceiling amount.
- **It is your responsibility to find the cheapest ticket available.** Failure to do so may result in your reimbursement being limited to the state ceiling amount.

- **Use of frequent flier miles** toward the purchase of a ticket is **NOT** reimbursable.
- **Flight or ticket insurance is not reimbursable.**
- If any portion of your airfare is subsidized by another source, that portion is **NOT** reimbursable under the Stipend program.

<u>If I drive, what will I be reimbursed?</u> You will be reimbursed the current Privately Owned Vehicle (POV) Federal mileage allowance, or the state ceiling, WHICHEVER IS LESS.

- POV mileage is subject to validation.
- **If you do not register your vehicle with the Housing Office,** reimbursement for POV mileage may be denied.
- **If someone is dropping you off,** you ***must*** have the vehicle verified by the Housing office prior to the vehicle departing campus, or your stipend will be denied.
- If you carpool with another student, only the driver will be reimbursed.
- If you drove a rental car instead of your POV, your reimbursement is limited to the POV allowance.

<u>If I take a train or bus, what will I be reimbursed?</u>

- Your reimbursement is limited **to the cost of the ticket,** not to exceed the state ceiling **amount**.
- You must provide copies of the tickets actually used.
- Reimbursement shall not include costs for sleep accommodations or for transport of vehicles on the train.

<u>If I save money on my airfare, will I be reimbursed for extra expenses?</u> Yes, **but ONLY if your class is 5 days or less in length with no Saturday stay over**, and you save a **minimum of <u>$250</u>** off the cost of a 21-day prior to the course travel date pre-purchase non-refundable round trip economy class common carrier ticket. To do this, submit **written** documentation of the savings -- this can consist of itinerary copies of both the original price and the cheaper fare, OR copies of both fares from the Internet. Comparisons should be of like travel**.** If you do not acquire written approval from Admissions **prior** making your travel arrangements, the extra expenses **will not** be reimbursed**.** The following options apply if your request is approved:

a.) You may stay on campus 1 night prior to your regularly scheduled arrival date if lodging is available and you have received written approval to do so.

- Please contact the NETC Transportation Department to see if there will be shuttle service available on your travel date. If you carpool using a rental car, the rental agency must list (as drivers) all eligible students claiming reimbursement on the rental agreement or only the driver will be reimbursed.

b.) You may stay in the Baltimore/DC metro areas before or after your course.

- If you save at least $250.00 in airfare as noted in the terms above, you may be reimbursed up to $90/day (2-day limit for savings over $500) for lodging or transportation expenses. **Original** receipts must be provided. If you carpool **from the airport** using a rental car, all students claiming reimbursement must be listed (as drivers), by the rental agency on the rental agreement or only the driver will be reimbursed.

- If you stay after your course ends, ask for a Stipend Agreement Amendment (FEMA Form 75-3a) when you register. When you return home, mail it with **original hotel or transportation** receipts to Admissions, Room I-216, 16825 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD 21727 within 60 days of the start date of the course, or reimbursement **WILL BE DENIED**.

FOOD SERVICE

Must I purchase a meal ticket?

- If you stay on campus, you **must** purchase a meal ticket. **If you do not, you will be asked to vacate your room on campus. You will then be responsible for your off-campus lodging costs, and we will deny your request for stipend reimbursement.**
- If you stay off campus, you **must** purchase a break ticket, currently $3 per day.

What is the cost of my meal ticket?

- Your meal ticket cost is identified in your acceptance letter.
- Meals other than those included in your meal ticket are to be paid for by cash.

What if I'm here for back-to-back courses?

- Your meal ticket includes the time between the two courses.
- If you stay off campus between the two courses (vacating your room), you must notify the food service Contractor **before** purchasing your meal ticket for the first course**.** If you do not, you will be charged the full amount. ***(Refer to information under "Registration.")***

How do I pay for my meals?

- Cash
- Traveler's checks
- State or Local government checks payable to the food service contractor
- Advanced payment by department check. **Please notify your department to include: your name, course code and course date on the check,** and send it to the food service contractor at Building K, 16825 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD 21727. Please call the food service if you need their Federal Tax ID#.
- Purchase order payable to the food service contractor
- Credit card (MasterCard or VISA) (Minimum charge of $6) Credit card payment is only accepted in person.
- **The food service contractor DOES NOT accept personal checks**.

What if I will not be on campus for the first and last meal identified as part of my meal ticket? You must notify the food service contractor at least 1 week prior to your course start date**.** If you do not, you will be obligated to pay the full amount.

May I get a refund on my meal ticket? There are no refunds except for emergency departures**!**

What if I'm on a special diet? Please call the food service contractor at (301) 447-1551 or fax your request to (301) 447-6944 at least 2 weeks prior to arriving at NETC. They will make arrangements to meet your needs. If you don't make arrangements prior to your arrival, you will be responsible for purchasing the normal meal ticket.

What happens if the bus arrives after the dining hall has closed?

- The food service contractor will provide you with a boxed dinner.
- Snack food is available at the Command Post Pub.

CONTACT INFORMATION

How do I get a telephone call? The caller may dial your direct extension (301) 447-xxxx. If requested, you will be provided with your extension at check-in. Numbers are NOT given to anyone else.

- For non-emergency situations, the caller may dial (301) 447-1048. The Student Coordinator will either transfer the call to your room or take a message and place it on the message board located in 'C' Lobby, which you should check daily.
- ***NETC will not accept personal telephone calls to students from the (800) number.*** Family members should dial (301) 447-1000 to contact a student.
- ***You may NOT accept collect calls.*** To do so may restrict you from attending future EMI or NFA courses.

What if the call is an emergency?

- The caller should state that the call is an emergency.
- The message will be delivered to you immediately unless you are not on campus.
- If you are leaving campus for a period of time, you should notify security where you can be reached.
- If you must return home due to an emergency, check out with the Housing Office in Building C before you depart the campus!

How do I get mail?

- Mail is delivered to C Lobby Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.
- All packages are x-rayed and no delivery is provided on weekends or holidays.
- Letters or packages should not be mailed to reach NETC ***before*** you arrive, since mail-holding areas are not available. Mail received when you are not on campus will be automatically returned to the sender.
- Outgoing mail should be deposited in the mailbox located near Building K (Dining Hall). The NETC Mailroom cannot mail outgoing items for students.
- Address:

  (Your name)--Student
  National Emergency Training Center
  Building C, Room (**Room numbers are provided upon arrival)**
  16825 South Seton Avenue
  Emmitsburg, MD 21727-8998

FEMA

National Emergency Training Center
16825 South Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727

Effective August 9, 2006

FREQUENTLY ASKED REIMBURSEMENT QUESTIONS

1. **Why must I be reimbursed electronically?** Public Law 104-134 mandates that after January 1, 1999, all Federal payments shall be made by electronic funds transfer unless a waiver is obtained from the Secretary of the Treasury.

2. **If my organization paid for my ticket, may I request that the reimbursement go to them?** Due to increased restrictions by the receiving financial institutions, money should only be deposited into an account bearing your name. You may then reimburse your organization.

3. **What if I don't have a checking account?** The money can be deposited into a savings account. Please call the Admissions Office (301-447-1035) and we will send you a form to complete. If you don't have a checking or savings account, you MUST submit a letter stating that fact, and a check will be sent to your home address. However, your reimbursement may take longer up to 12 weeks.

4. **How will I know when it's deposited?** The entry in an account may differ from bank to bank, but most likely it will be listed as "FED SALARY, FEM2, or TREAS" and will probably **NOT** have your name next to it.

5. **How long will it take for me to receive reimbursement?** The reimbursement should be made to your account no later than 6-8 weeks from the course start date. If after 8 weeks you still haven't received your reimbursement, please call the Admissions Office at (301) 447-1035 or email us at netc-admissions@dhs.gov to check on the status of your claim.

6. **What would delay my stipend being processed?** Not having any of the following: 1) your airline ticket; 2) itinerary with ticket number and payment made (ticket number pending is not acceptable); 3) POV information; 4) request from your organization for reimbursement or 5) the appropriate direct deposit information. If you bank with a credit union, please have them confirm your routing and account numbers.

7. **What would reduce my stipend claim?** Your stipend might be reduced if you purchased a refundable, first- or business-class ticket; took side trips or had extended stays; or purchased your ticket within 21 days prior to the course travel date.

8. **What if I am submitting an electronic airline ticket?** You must submit the itinerary receipt (listing the ticket number and showing that payment was made) at registration. If the itinerary does not identify that the ticket is non-refundable, you need to provide us with documentation that the ticket is either non-refundable or the cheapest fare available at the time you purchased your ticket. If you do not provide the documentation to us, we will only reimburse up to your state's ceiling amount.

9. **Will I be reimbursed for the airfare if frequent flyer miles are used?** Frequent flyer miles cannot be reimbursed because you would not be incurring out-of-pocket expenses.

10. **What do I need to provide if I take a side/extended trip?** If the cost is less than your state's ceiling amount, you will be reimbursed for the cost of the ticket. If the cost is higher than your state's ceiling amount, your reimbursement will be limited to your state's ceiling amount.

11. **Do I receive reimbursement for parking, shuttles and travel between my home and my local airport?** No, those expenses are part of the student's share of the stipend program.

12. **Will I be reimbursed for my meals?** No, that expense is also part of the student's share of the stipend program.

13. **What is the driving mileage allowance?** Your reimbursement will be limited to the current POV Federal mileage allowance, or the state ceiling, WHICHEVER IS LESS. POV mileage is subject to validation.

14. **What information should I bring when driving my Privately Owned Vehicle (POV)?** You must show a picture ID (we recommend you bring two in case our security level is elevated), registration card, and have your odometer readings and license tag number PRIOR to receiving your room key. Some states do not require the registration to be in the vehicle. However, you must submit a copy of your POV registration to be eligible for a stipend.

15. **What documentation do I need if I am driving my organizational vehicle and they want to be reimbursed for my mileage?** In addition to the information listed in question #14, you also need a statement from your organization, on organization letterhead, stating that you are authorized to drive the vehicle and they would like you to receive reimbursement. If you carpool with another student, only <u>one</u> driver will be reimbursed. As stated in #2, the reimbursement will be made to your account. You will be responsible for reimbursing your organization.

16. **What if I'm driving with family, and they will be using the car off campus while I'm at NETC?** You must register your car on campus prior to your family taking the car off campus or you will not be eligible for reimbursement.

THIS TABLE WILL BE USED TO DETERMINE REIMBURSEMENT FOR NETC & NTF STUDENTS WHO:

- Drove or traveled by bus or train
- Purchased tickets less than 21 days prior to course travel date
- Did not purchase or show proof of non-refundable fare
- Took side-trips or had extended stayovers

STATE CEILINGS FOR 2008			
State	**Saturday Stayover**	**No Saturday Stayover**	**Noble**
AK – Alaska	$ 860.00	$ 900.00	$ 890.00
AL – Alabama	420.00	480.00	210.00
AR – Arkansas	400.00	470.00	420.00
AS – American Samoa	2570.00	2570.00	2500.00
AZ – Arizona	490.00	500.00	480.00
CA – California	480.00	570.00	590.00
CO – Colorado	400.00	440.00	510.00
CT – Connecticut	240.00	280.00	320.00
DC – District of Columbia	100.00	100.00	390.00
DE – Delaware	140.00	160.00	290.00
FL – Florida	440.00	460.00	320.00
GA – Georgia	390.00	400.00	170.00
GU – Guam	2440.00	2440.00	1940.00
HI – Hawaii	1050.00	1100.00	1130.00
IA – Iowa	420.00	430.00	560.00
ID – Idaho	540.00	560.00	800.00
IL – Illinois	320.00	250.00	360.00
IN – Indiana	330.00	350.00	240.00
KS – Kansas	360.00	370.00	340.00
KY – Kentucky	320.00	340.00	410.00
LA – Louisiana	430.00	520.00	540.00
MA –Massachusetts	240.00	290.00	350.00
MD – Maryland	100.00	100.00	300.00
ME – Maine	400.00	430.00	570.00
MI –Michigan	410.00	420.00	420.00
MN – Minnesota	410.00	390.00	270.00
MO – Missouri	350.00	360.00	420.00
MP – Saipan	2710.00	2710.00	3000.00
MS – Mississippi	360.00	390.00	320.00
MT – Montana	660.00	660.00	640.00
NC – North Carolina	330.00	340.00	390.00
ND – North Dakota	520.00	600.00	650. 00
NE – Nebraska	360.00	430.00	680. 00
NH – New Hampshire	270.00	300.00	360. 00
NJ – New Jersey	170.00	170.00	270. 00
NM – New Mexico	490.00	480.00	460. 00
NV – Nevada	460.00	560.00	1000. 00
NY – New York	230.00	240.00	310. 00
OH – Ohio	310.00	310.00	410. 00
OK- – Oklahoma	340.00	440.00	560. 00
OR – Oregon	470.00	510.00	580. 00

PA – Pennsylvania	150.00	150.00	650. 00
PR – Puerto Rico	490.00	580.00	800. 00
RI – Rhode Island	260.00	300.00	480. 00
SC – South Carolina	380.00	390.00	330. 00
SD – South Dakota	570.00	590.00	550. 00
TN – Tennessee	350.00	400.00	200. 00
TX – Texas	390.00	430.00	560. 00
UT – Utah	480.00	550.00	1090. 00
VA – Virginia	180.00	200.00	430. 00
VI – Virgin Islands	910.00	910.00	900. 00
VT – Vermont	370.00	410.00	410. 00
WA – Washington	510.00	510.00	590. 00
WI – Wisconsin	340.00	390.00	280. 00
WV – West Virginia	200.00	230.00	400. 00
WY – Wyoming	550.00	570.00	630. 00