

Dear

I want to inform you that, on behalf of the three meeting organizers, UNESCO, NCLIS, and the National Forum on Information Literacy, Robert S. Willard, Executive Director of NCLIS, today scheduled the Information Literacy Meeting of Experts for September 20-23<sup>rd</sup> 2003, in Prague, The Czech Republic, and invited 35 experts from 23 different countries in all regions of the world to participate. UNESCO will publish the Proceedings of this meeting, and findings and recommendations stemming from the deliberations will be made to international bodies, national governments, private institutions and others, including the World Summit on the Information Society scheduled by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) for December 2003 in Geneva.

In his invitation to the participants Mr. Willard mentioned that the Administration recently announced that the U.S. will rejoin UNESCO on October 1, 2003. Willard said that "the U.S. is, therefore, renewing its support of UNESCO's goals and programs, including the Basic Education for All initiative, the Building Learning Societies initiative, and the Information for All program. All three of these UNESCO programs are very closely related to the Information Literacy meeting goals and objectives."

Willard also indicated that the Administration has set as a high priority the *No Child Left Behind* program, which is a program that is also very closely related to the objectives of the information literacy meeting. "Moreover," Willard continued, "his current Administration budget reflects a significant increase for the education sector, one of the few increases outside of the defense and foreign affairs areas. The First Lady, Laura Bush, has also shown her unwavering support for education, both by her words and by her actions in many school, library, and other settings around the world."

Dr. Patricia Senn Breivik, Dean of the San Jose State University Library, and chair of the National Forum on Information Literacy, is a long-time international information literacy champion and advocate. She has been the moving spirit behind this effort.

Probably the best way for you to track developments related to this meeting is to periodically check the NCLIS website where over 30 commissioned papers on various aspects of information literacy have already been posted, written by the expert participants to the meeting. The URL is:

<http://www.nclis.gov/libinter/infolitconf&meet/infolitconf&meet.html>

Do not hesitate to contact me at [whorton@nclis.gov](mailto:whorton@nclis.gov) or you may telephone me at (202) 606-9200 (fax -9203). Or, you may also contact Dr. Patricia Senn Breivik at (408) 924-2419 (fax -2800).

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