

EARN EXECUTIVE

EARN Scholar Program
Approved July 6/7, 1989

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July 12, 1989

1 PREFACE

Over the past few years EARN, as well as other networks, have seen a dramatic decrease in the number of volunteer projects that have been started within the network. Some of the most valuable functions in the network, such as Crosswell Mailer, Listserv and GONE, to name just a few, were written by people who were interested in seeing the network develop and that new tools were needed to assist in this growth.

Out among the 22 countries and 60,000 EARN researchers, there are users developing tools that may very well have a large impact on the way EARN develops in the future. Many of these people often develop tools for their own use and never quite polish them up enough for EARN-wide distribution. Often that last effort of documenting the software, adding needed functions and listening to user feedback is ignored by the volunteer developer.

2 PROPOSAL

Our proposal is to set up an EARN Scholar program. This program will supply a grant every year to three individuals (the amount to be between 1,000-3,000 ECUs). The money provided is strictly a token of appreciation and encouragement from EARN. The money is to be dispersed directly to the individual who is doing the development. The program will commence in 1990 and 10000 ECU will be made available from the "Other development expenses" - budget item 6.11.

There are various offshoots to this program that are worth noting:

- Generation of goodwill:

Users in the network will perceive EARN as a more friendly place, a place where users ideas and developments are appreciated and not taken for granted.

- Generation of competition:

After a year or two of awarding the EARN Scholar Grant, we will see a large increase in the number of applications that will be sent to the evaluation committee.

- Generation of reputation:

By carefully selecting which projects we sponsor, we can develop a reputation of excellence (similar to the way people perceive a Fulbright Scholar).

3 RULES FOR SUBMISSION

- Users in all EARN member and associate member countries are allowed to compete.

- A two page description of the project (in English) is sent to the evaluation committee.

- The work must be of a strictly developmental and practical nature. (Public relations work as well as network or table maintenance work do not qualify). Work can include improvement to existing network programs.

- Preference will be given to projects already under way, rather than to projects still on paper.

- Preference will be given to projects that are not operating system specific and that appeal to all users of EARN, rather than a small subset of that population.

- The recipient of an EARN grant must state that the software he/she develops will be made "public-domain" for EARN.

4 PROJECT EVALUATION

The evaluation committee is a committee comprised of five EARN individuals, three from the EARN BoD and two from the EARN NOG. Due to the highly technical nature of the proposed projects, it is suggested that the five individuals be very knowledgeable in the technical details of networking.