

## Forerunner Federation

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Foundation for minority success, worldwide

# “I will be an innovator, entrepreneur and job creator...”

## Student-professor team competition and Academic Excellence Awards for minority nation serving and religious high schools in the Balkans Deadline: May 15, 2012

**Innovation? Why?** History shows that many great ideas and successful new ventures were initiated by people at a young or very young age (e.g., Microsoft, Facebook, Rubik’s Cube, FedEx, Newton’s discoveries, theory of relativity, Star Wars and others). Many successful ventures started in student dorms, outlined in class papers or developed very shortly after graduation. Today’s high school students are at the threshold of this age of productivity, equipped with some knowledge and inspired by great new ideas that respond to major popular or scientific need.

Regardless of your plans, it is time to develop one more skill of your talent: innovation. It should not detract from your current studies, not distract your attention from the hard work of learning and not diminish your ambitious goals to go for advanced studies. It should supplement your studies, elevate your thinking and open new opportunities. It is important to think about how some people will become not just an employee who applies for jobs and happily employed by someone else but someone who has the drive to become an innovator, employer and job creator who employs others.

**What are the reasons to compete?** Creativity and innovation may very well be your greatest treasures. This competition should help you in discovering your treasure. Furthermore, the resulting curriculum should help many other young people in discovering the treasure of their own creativity. The winning curriculum proposals will be widely distributed to minority serving and religious affiliated high schools all over the Balkans.

Small nations and various minorities often face big difficulties. Their culture is misunderstood; their traditions do not get the respect they deserve; and many talented minority students face challenges in getting advanced education. As a result, many minorities are underrepresented in the economy, well-paying jobs and important leadership positions. Frequently minority nation areas are hardest hit by unemployment and shortage of economic opportunities. This competition is designed to encourage students from minority nation serving and religious high schools to discover their talents, get extra encouragement and gain an opportunity to help others.

**What should be submitted?** The product that should be submitted in response to this call is one comprehensive pdf file of an *extracurricular model program* for high schools (e.g. club, twice a month extra course or other similar activity for a full academic year). The successful extracurricular model program is likely to have the following ingredients:

- It provides an introduction to the recognition of social need, business planning, financing and budgeting, marketing and networking, incorporation, management, hiring, measuring success, expansion and others (give the basics but do not overwhelm).
- It creates opportunities for experiential and entrepreneurial learning and achieve clearly stated exits competencies of students
- Participation in the activities guided by the extracurricular model program should be fun, entertaining and inspiring. A simple series of classroom presentations by one person is unlikely to inspire
- It appropriately supplements current studies without creating major distraction and confusion
- It helps students in better understanding of what many people need but currently do not get. It helps students in developing ideas, products and services that people are likely to find very desirable and much wanted
- It is built on diverse, exciting and new multimedia technologies (e.g. readily available YouTube videos, resources on the World Wide Web, multimedia presentations)
- It is original extracurricular model program, no copying from the work or words of other people
- The extracurricular model program balances inspiring stories, case studies, statistical data, fundamental skills of business and entrepreneurship (e.g., market analysis, start-up and operating expenses, sources of financing)
- It balances stories of world renowned successes and local entrepreneurial successes to show that brilliance and creativity are not limited to faraway lands but also possible, appreciated and encouraged in their homeland
- Built on enduring principles of cultural respect, ethics and morality in everything business related. We want to develop people who are admired not just for their creativity and financial success but also for their impressive, ethical behavior and respect for minority traditions
- The extracurricular model program outline includes teaching guide or teacher brochure, learning materials and web-based/social media support specifics
- It is readily implementable in a wide variety of high schools in the Balkans and perhaps elsewhere as well.

**What are evaluation criteria?**

- Creativity, practical relevance and innovation
- Essential skills building and supporting materials
- Trustworthiness of scientific and business information
- Potential for generating interest and enthusiasm
- Respect for minority traditions and cultural inclusiveness

**How should the team compete?** It is your decision but substantial student participation needs to be demonstrated. Obviously, educational success often comes from the teamwork of students and teachers. Involvement of the new generation and their fresh, creative ideas might greatly increase the success of the extracurricular model program. The reviewers will evaluate the resulting end product that you submit, the extracurricular model program. The time between announcement of this call and

deadline for submission is about two months, not very long time. Use your time for meetings and gathering of essential didactic material early and effectively. Well-planned project process is the key to success!

**What are eligibility criteria?** The competition is open to

- ✓ Professor- student teams of minority/small nation serving and/or religious affiliated high schools in the Balkans and Central Europe.
- ✓ The team should have many more students than professors and most students should come from minority or small nation.
- ✓ Collaborative teams from different high schools are particularly encouraged to apply.

**How to apply and when?** The applications should be submitted in English or one of the official languages of Balkan. Please visit our website for details of this call and necessary documents for submission (<http://forerunnerfederation.org/rootsofculture.html>). Applications should be submitted electronically (see attached forms and technical guide).

- Submission address: [ffapplications@gmail.com](mailto:ffapplications@gmail.com)
- Submission Deadline: midnight local time, May 15, 2012

**Where can I ask questions?** Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have about the eligibility criteria or the competition: Azra Arnautović Project Officer via e-mail (any language used in the Balkans): [arnautovic.azra@gmail.com](mailto:arnautovic.azra@gmail.com) or phone (English): (387) 6-131-1631

**What are the Academic Excellence Awards?** After careful evaluation of all eligible applications by our International Review Council, the award recipients will be selected by the Board of the Forerunner Federation. The Academic Excellence Award winners will be announced around June 15, 2012. In case of sufficient qualifying applications, it is anticipated that one to three awards will be provided in the amount of \$500-1,000 (USD) each. The award goes to the team and the monetary component will be transferred to the team leader. The Forerunner Federation reserves copyright and expects support for merging models for subsequent broad distribution of the extracurricular model program.

**What is the Forerunner Federation?** The Forerunner Federation is founded on the belief that success of humanity depends on cultural diversity and respect for minority traditions. The Forerunner Federation is a nonprofit, non-governmental organization registered in Commonwealth of Virginia, United States. Our mission is rooted in the fundamental rights of communities and people to live their chosen way of life and prosper in the emerging knowledge society. The Forerunner Federation supports talented minority students and minority serving higher education with a current focus on the Balkans.