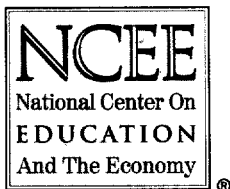


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30 December 2003

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Marc S. Tucker  
*President*

Top Hat Plan Exemption  
Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration  
Room N-5644  
U.S. Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is intended to satisfy the alternative method of compliance with the reporting and disclosure requirements of Part 1 of Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 for unfunded pension plans maintained by an employer for a select group of management or highly compensated employees described in Department of Labor Regulation Section 2520.104-23.

The letter is submitted on behalf of the National Center on Education and the Economy ("NCEE"). NCEE's employer identification number is 52-1539258. Its address is as follows:

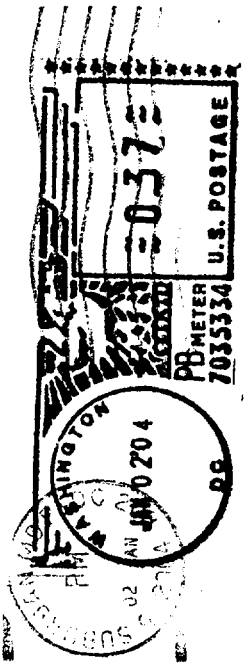
National Center on Education and the Economy  
555 13<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Suite 500 West  
Washington, DC 20004

NCEE maintains the 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan of the National Center on Education and the Economy as well as a number of individual deferred compensation arrangements (the "Plans"). The Plans are all maintained for the primary purpose of providing deferred compensation for a select group of management and highly compensated employees. Currently, four employees are covered under the Plans. However, additional employees may be covered by the Plans in the future, provided that these employees must be members of a select group of management or highly compensated employees.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Tucker

One Thomas Circle, NW  
Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20005  
{phone} 202 783 3668  
{fax} 202 783 3672  
{email} info@ncee.org  
{web} www.ncee.org



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