



# TRC news & views

TEXAS REHABILITATION COMMISSION

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STILL A WAYS TO GO

## '83 Funding Picture Looks Bright

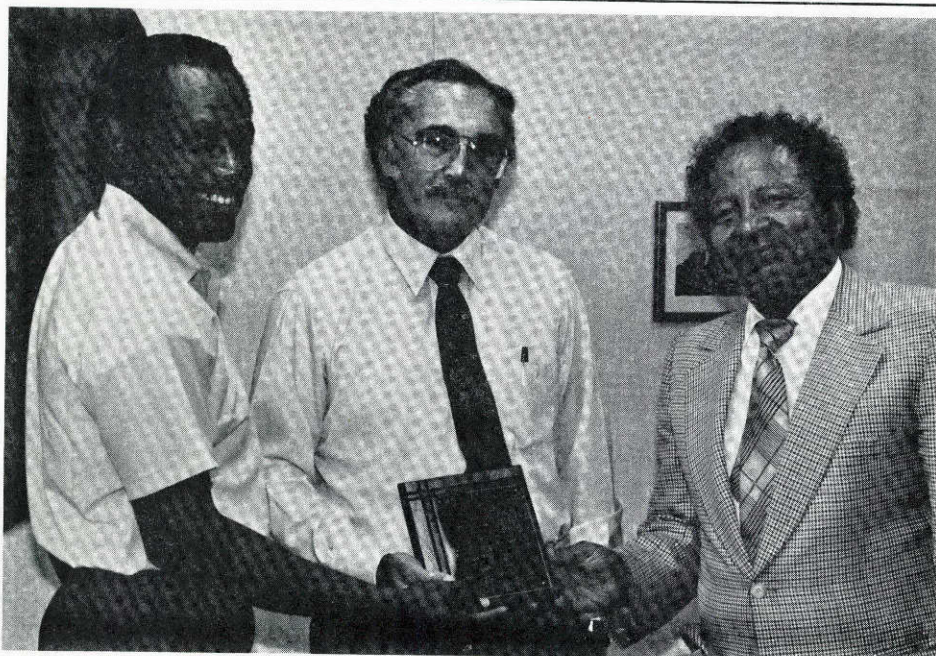
Vocational rehabilitation program advocates have reason to be optimistic about the federal funding outlook for Fiscal Years 1983-85. On Wednesday, June 23, the full Congress approved a budget package that included the best of all possible assumed funding levels for vocational rehabilitation over the next three fiscal years.

The funding levels Congress approved were the same as were passed earlier in the month by a Joint House-Senate Conference Com-

mittee. Under these assumed levels, all programs included in the rehabilitation act would receive a total of \$1.029 billion in FY 1983, \$1.11 billion in FY 1984 and \$1.196 billion for FY 1985. Under these assumptions, rehabilitation programs would receive an overall increase (above the FY 1982 appropriation) of approximately 9.7% in FY 1983 and 8% in Fiscal Years 1984 and 1985 (each).

At this point in time, specific figures have not been developed for any of the

individual programs (such as Section 110, vocational rehabilitation basic support funds) included in the rehabilitation act. Appropriations for specific programs will be determined over the next few months as members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees set actual spending limits for each program. The funding levels approved by Congress on June 23 are strictly assumptions, or targets. Actual appropriations can be set lower than the assumed levels, but not higher.



A.C. Sutton (right), president of the statewide NAACP, stopped by TRC's Central Office recently to deliver a nice surprise. Sutton presented Commissioner Max Arrell and George Clark, director of the Civil Rights Office, with a plaque commending the Commission's accomplishments in its equal opportunity employment and civil rights programs.

### Congratulations!

Congratulations are in order for the 19 TRC counselors who, effective June 1, 1982, were promoted to Supervising Counselor positions. They are:

**Region I:** Richard Lupia, Duane Mitchell, Occie Wadsworth.

**Region II:** Gene F. Lane, Randall B. Jacobs.

**Region III:** William B. Krieg, Merrylyn Buerschinger, Polly Walton, Clifford Hughes, Billy Feltman.

**Region IV:** William Moseley

**Region V:** Eliseo Smith, III; Patricio Alba.

**Region VI:** Charles Wasson, Henry McDonald, Sandra Sitton, Stanley Brummal, Charles Armstrong, Judy Freeman.

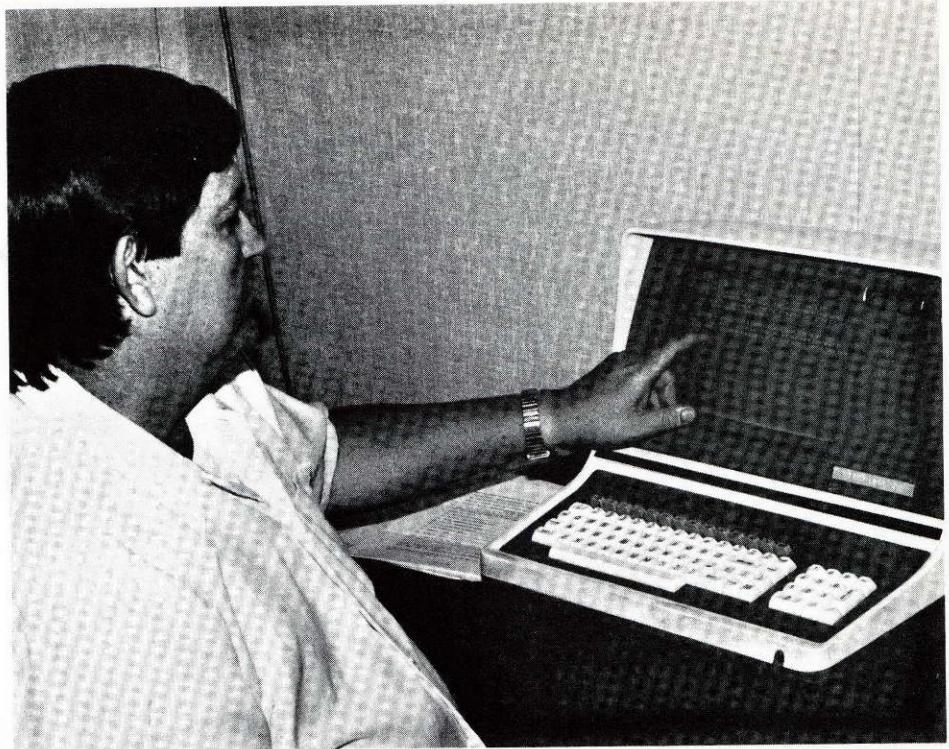


# Job Listing to Save Time, Frustration

Today, if a counselor needs specific information about a particular vocational/technical school in Texas, or about the requirements of a specific occupation, he or she may have to spend several hours thumbing through a number of catalogs to locate that information. The day is coming, though, when the counselor will be able to locate all of the information in a matter of seconds, in one place.

That day is not far off, either, according to Wayne Sanders, a program specialist in the Central Office. Sanders has worked for more than a year to develop a computer program that will serve as an invaluable tool for counselors who need information about vocational training for clients. The program, which Sanders calls the "computerized vocational/technical school information system", will contain a wide variety of occupations, schools across the state which offer training for those jobs, where these schools are located, prerequisites for admission, and tuition costs.

And, if a counselor needs information to determine if a client is well suited for a particular occupation, the terminal operator can enter a few numbers on the terminal and, within seconds, information needed for vocational evaluation will appear on the screen. The computer will also tell the counselor if a campus is barrier free, what books a client will need for a particular course, what type of equipment the client will need, the date of the first class, and more. Spe-



Program Specialist Wayne Sanders demonstrates the "computerized vocational/technical school information system" which should prove a valuable tool for counselors looking for information about vocational training for clients.

cific job tasks will even be included in the system.

When Sanders started work on the project, there was no listing of vocational/technical schools in Texas. So, for starters, Sanders used a list of all schools to which TRC has issued a voucher for payment since Jan., 1981. He hopes that, as time goes along, counselors will provide information about schools which are not on the computer list.

At this writing, only a few occupations are actually on the program. Sanders plans to have the 50 "most used" occupations on line within two

to three months. Eventually, he says, the computer program will contain over 150 jobs.

The whole system, Sanders explains, is designed to benefit counselors. By being able to locate the information with such ease, it should save them precious time. And, in the long run, he adds, it will benefit the client, too. The information on specific occupations will make vocational evaluation less time-consuming, easier to accomplish, and may result in counselors being able to provide a wider range of occupational choices.

TRC News & Views is printed by the Texas Rehabilitation Commission for distribution to its employees and retirees throughout the state. Inquiries may be addressed to Kaye Beneke, Public Information Office, Texas Rehabilitation Commission, 118 E. Riverside Drive, Austin, TX. 78704; or telephone (512) 445-8745, (Tex-An) 887-8745.



## From the Field:

The staff of the Richmond Supervisory Unit stood by and watched several fires being started in the Richmond Field Office in early June. What's more, supervisor James Jones is proud of them!

And, he should be. The fires were ignited as part of a fire prevention workshop sponsored by the Richmond Unit and attended by all of the counselors and clerical staff. The local fire department provided instruction on different types of fires, types of fire extinguishers to use with different blazes and hands on training in operation of an extinguisher. Jones recommends this type of training to other TRC offices which might be interested. "It's free and takes less than an hour and can provide valuable information that may save lives and property damage," he says.

TRC counselor Mary Correa, Harlingen, is not one who gives up easily. Her persistence paid off recently, when, after months of work, she persuaded the Harlingen State Chest Hospital to initiate its contract with TRC with an amendment which includes provisions that can save the Commission anywhere from one-third to 100 percent of the cost of respiratory treatment and surgery for clients.

The original contract covered only diagnostic services. Under the amended contract, clients receive diagnostics (i.e. pre-surgical consultation) hospitalization, and surgery at the state chest hospital, saving an estimated one-third of the cost. Perhaps the most impressive aspect of the new arrange-



Congratulations to counselor Charles Armstrong (left), Dallas Field Office North, who recently received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Texas Occupational Therapy Association's Trinity-North District. Armstrong was selected for the award for his contributions as a rehabilitation counselor, his advocacy for the handicapped and his creative manner in identifying appropriate job placements for severely disabled persons. According to a letter announcing his selection, Armstrong's efforts "have made it possible for occupational therapists to realize their professional goals and to assist individuals in leading more healthful, independent lives."



University of Texas at El Paso President Haskell Monroe (third from left) recently accepted a TRC certificate of appreciation for UTEP's outstanding efforts in improving services and facilities for disabled students. On hand to present the award were (left to right) Arthur V. Power, TRC counselor at UTEP; John B. Morgan, acting Regional Director for Region I; and Robert C. Brown, El Paso Field Office supervisor. Among other things, UTEP has made numerous physical modifications to make the campus more accessible, adopted a policy of relocating classes to accessible classrooms for disabled students, established special registration procedures for disabled students and developed special services, including special reading equipment for visually handicapped students, in the school library.

ment, though, is in the event TRC is temporarily out of case service money, which occasionally occurs at the end of a funding cycle, client services will be provided at no cost.

Correa refuses to take all of the credit for the new

arrangement. She praises hospital officials and her supervisor, Harvey Mosemeyer, for their assistance in developing the new plan.

Meanwhile, Correa is looking for other ways to reduce the cost of hos-



Cont. from page 3

pitalizing TRC clients. She is encouraging clients to stay in wards, instead of semi-private rooms, when they enter the hospital. Ward rates are less expensive. In addition, Correa and other counselors in the geographic area, are encouraging client partici-

pation for the cost of medical care. Some clients are now participating with approximately 50 percent of the cost. Counselors are also asking doctors who perform surgery to shorten the length of the client's hospitalization by at least one day, when possible, to keep costs down.

FROM



DDD Professional Relations Officer Lawrence Cummings is the proud owner of a new Regional Commissioner's Citation from the Social Security Administration. In a letter to Cummings, Regional Commissioner Martha A. McSteen said, "Your consistently outstanding accomplishments in establishing and maintaining superior professional relations with the San Antonio-South Texas medical community merit sincere appreciation. The quality of your work reflects a level of personal dedication that is a credit to your agency and to the Social Security Administration." Cummings (left) is pictured here with his supervisor, Bill Crosby, manager of the Medical/Professional Relations Unit.

## HIGH ROLLIN'

# TRA to Feature Heated Contest

A select group of "all-star" players from TRC will suit up July 26 to meet the River City REC-ers, Austin's wheelchair basketball team, for a basketball game that promises to be memorable, at the very least. Commissioner Max Arrell, captain of the "Fast-Break Bureaucrats", has selected a team to include, among others, Doyle "Wheeler-Dealer", "Jumpin'" Jimmy Jackson and "Dancing" Dale Place as well as an assortment of most valuable players from the field and Disability Determination Division.

The basketball game, a scheduled event of the Texas Rehabilitation Association conference, will take place at 11:30 a.m., at the Texas School for the Deaf. The \$1.00 tickets are included in the TRA registration packet or can be purchased at the door. Proceeds will go to the Austin Area Rehabilitation Association and Austin Resource Center for Independent Living to support their community service programs, and to the River City REC-ers to help defray the costs of travel to competitions around the state.

## Calendar of Events

JULY 1982

<u>July</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Location</u>
6	Civil Rights Training for Central Office Supervisor	Austin
13	Performance Evaluation Coordinators Meeting	Austin
14	Performance Evaluation Committee Meetings	Austin
15 - 16	Phone User Training for Central Office Personnel	Austin
21 - 23	Medical Training for VR Counselors - Phase II	San Antonio
25 - 27	Texas Rehabilitation Association Annual Conference	Austin
27 - 28	Office Leasing Training	Austin
27 - 30	Texas Association of Vocational Adjustment Counselors (TAVAC) Annual Conference	McAllen

## Retirements:

Jack Nash, Supervisory Counselor, LaMarque Field Office, employed Jan., 1966, retirement effective May 31, 1982.

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