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THE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN TEXAS

Texas Economic Crown Jewel in U.S.

Vic Arnold, executive director of Texas 2000, characterizes Texas as the "economic crown jewel in this country." And he had many "Texas brag" statistics to back up his statement at the Statewide Public Hearing on Vocational and Adult Education in Austin recently.

As director of the Texas 2000 Commission, it is Arnold's job to determine what the future holds for Texas in the upcoming years and what the problems might be, so they can be addressed ahead of time.

Right now, the problems seem minimal, as the Texas economy is booming. For instance, in 1970, the per capita income in Texas was \$400 below the national average (national was \$3,900; Texas - \$3,500). By 1980, Texas was \$200 above the national average (national - \$8,700; Texas - \$8,900). "From \$400 below per capita to \$200 above in 10 short years is quite an accomplishment," Arnold said.

In ranking Texas among the states, Texas is third in population; second in retail sales (up from 5th in the 70's); seventh in value added by manufacturing (this area tripled in the 70's and in '80 stood at \$45 billion). Texas ranks second in construction contracts; first in value of mineral production; first in production of non-fuel minerals -- uranium, sand, gravel, limestone, etc.; third in non-agricultural employment; third in gross farm income; third in total personal income; first in total cargo shipped into the international marketplace. Texas also has the lowest unemployment rate among the 10 most populous states.

In population...Texas had 11.2 million residents in 1970 and 14,228,383 in 1980, for a 27% growth factor. Of that growth, 58% was due to people moving to Texas...1,760,000 people decided to move to Texas in the 1970's and there is no indication that this in-migration will slow in the foreseeable future.

According to Arnold, by the year 2000, there may be 22 million people living in Texas, which would be 1 out of every 12 Americans. "This means, in terms of elementary and secondary school children, we may see a 50% increase by the end of the century. It also means in order to stay even, at least 160,000 new jobs will have to be created each year," he said.

In discussing the demographics of the in-migration to Texas, only 16% came from the northeast. The largest contingency came from California -- 10%. "Our sister states of New Mexico, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas account for 27% of our population growth."

The median age in the U.S. in 1980 was 30, with Texas sporting a younger population -- median age 28. In 55% of the families moving to Texas, the head of

the household is under 35 years-of-age. Ten percent of the people moving here are over 65. A large proportion of the remainder are single young women from 18-24 who are moving into the metropolitan areas. Arnold foresees a baby boom for Texas due to the increase of women of child-bearing age.

In terms of the Texas economy, "the fastest growing segments of our gross state products during the 1970's and early 80's have been in: wholesale and retail trade, manufacturing, finance, communications, transportation, utilities. Texas is diversifying and there is great momentum in this economy, which has produced some startling statistics," Arnold said.

During the decade of the 70's and today, Texas leads all states in added manufacturing jobs. The growth rate was about 5% in manufacturing employment -- twice the national average. In 1975, there were 16,700 new businesses incorporated in this state. By 1979, there were 41,320, which represents a 25% growth rate for each year. That is twice the national average and is 33% greater than any other sunbelt state. In fact, Arnold states, about 90% of the employment in Texas is in small businesses.

Agriculture remains very important to the Texas economy. Texas ranks in the top 10 for 14 of the 20 most valuable agricultural commodities marketed in this country.

Texas has the fastest rate of growth in total bank deposits than any other state in the country. It ranks third in the nation and is moving up rapidly.

Foreign trade is growing. Texas has 12 deep water ports and an equal number of shallow ports, and for the last 12 years, these ports have handled more cargo than any other state in the country. The net foreign trade last year is valued at about \$50 billion -- 13% of all foreign trade of this country went in and out of Texas ports.

Arnold predicts that the Texas economy will remain a rapidly growing economy. "We have two driving forces in Texas -- population and the state's economy. The relevant question is not 'to grow or not to grow,' but rather, 'how do we manage that growth' and 'what are the critical issues associated with that growth.' Texas 2000 is addressing these issues and welcomes participation from interested Texans.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Vic Arnold had many more interesting statistics and points, but space limits their inclusion. The full text of Arnold's speech may be obtained by contacting the ACTIVE office.)

Public Hearing Successful

Nearly 200 individuals attended the ACTIVE's September 23 Statewide Public Hearing on Vocational and Adult Education in Austin.

Thirty-six individuals, representing associations, business and industry, and local level programs registered and provided testimony.

Topics addressed included: funding, inservice training, facilities and equipment, teacher certification and education programs, accessibility to vocational and adult programs, guidance and counseling, labor market job needs, and strengthening ties with business and industry.

As a prelude to the testimony segment of the public hearing, government, education, military, and association officials provided "state level" perspectives of vocational and adult programs, linkages with the military, and changing population and economic trends for Texas.

Testimony received at the public hearing will provide the foundations for the ACTIVE's annual reports to the Governor and State Board of Education, due later this year.

TEA/SBOE Reorganizes

A long-term reorganization of the State Board of Education and the Texas Education Agency designed to meet the changing needs of the 1980's is now in effect. Designed to parallel the updated Texas Education Agency organizational framework, the Board will conduct its continuing study of the public system's needs through six standing, two ad hoc, and four steering committees.

The Board committees and their chairmen include: Policy, Budget, and Finance -- E. R. Gregg, Jacksonville, chair; Instruction, Research, and Evaluation - Mrs. Mary Ann Leveridge, East Bernard, chair; Special Populations -- Ruben E. Hinojosa, Mercedes, chair; Teacher Preparation, School Support Services, and Special Projects -- Bryan Crouch, Poteet, chair; Litigation and Appeals -- Wayne Windle, El Paso, chair; Investment of the Permanent School Fund -- Jimmy L. Elrod, San Antonio, chair.

Wayne Frederick of Orange will chair the Vocational Education Task Force, an ad hoc committee scheduled to meet at the invitation of the Advisory Council for Technical-Vocational Education and at the call of the Board chairman. Rex Reddell of San Marcos is co-chair. The Planning Committee, which will meet at the call of the Board chairman, will be chaired by Elrod. Four steering committees appointed to address legislative mandates will include: Finance, chaired by Gregg; Curriculum, chaired by Leveridge; Teacher Preparation, chaired by Crouch; and Vocational Study, chaired by Reddell.

The Texas Education Agency organizational framework is built on six major departments and two special units, each headed by a deputy commissioner. The departments and deputy commissioners include: Professional Development and Support, Grace Grimes; Agency Administration, Dr. James Hill; Planning, Research and Curriculum, Dr. Tom Anderson; School Sup-

port, D. P. O'Quinn; Investments, Jim Hooks; and Finance and Program Administration, Dr. W. N. Kirby (includes Department of Occupational Education and Technology). The special units, attached directly to the commissioner's office, include Interagency Coordination, Policy Formulation, and Dissemination headed by Cis Myers and Legal Services directed by David P. Ryan.

Legislative News

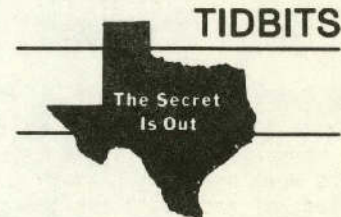
Funding for FY82 Still Pending

The House Full Appropriations Committee and Senate Subcommittee on Appropriations have both proposed funding levels for vocational education for FY82. The House level is \$707.4 million and the Senate level is \$700 million. CAUTION! These figures have not been approved by the Full Senate or House as of this date, and it must be remembered that additional cuts are being proposed by the White House. What impact the White House proposals will have on vocational education funding are not known at this time. It should be noted that the Administration requested \$623 million funding for vocational education for FY82 and that the maximum that could be funded is \$735 million.

Department of Education Critical

The Administration is gearing up to try to abolish the Department of Education. The impact of this move on vocational education is not clear, however, there is reason to believe that Administration proposals would move vocational education from the Department of Education into another agency. The results of moving vocational education into another agency could have a significant detrimental impact on the future of vocational education and their delivery systems at the local level. For this reason, the vocational educators continue to be concerned about rumored proposals and suggestions to disband the Department of Education.

Please let your members of Congress know your feelings on the Department of Education and the continuation of vocational education as a part of the education delivery system. It is timely for letters to go to members of Congress immediately on this topic.



Foundation Sets Goals -- At the September 24 meeting of the Vocational-Technical Education Development Foundation Task Force, fund-raising goals were set by the enthusiastic group. The goal for the remainder of 1981 is \$40,000; \$100,000 for 1982; \$300,000 for 1983. The group is eager to begin getting the word out about vocational-technical education and to start contacting business people. To implement the activities, the tax-exempt application has been filed with the IRS, a Foundation brochure

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will be printed within a month and the directors have copies of "The Secret Is Out" slide/tape presentations they will use with civic groups in their communities.

Other business included electing J. R. Thompson, owner of Warren Electric in Houston, as a director of the Foundation. To set the stage for the fund-raising activities, he immediately sent in a check for \$1,000 and is going to pay for the printing of the Foundation brochures. With support of vocational education supporters like J. R. Thompson, the Foundation will become a strong voice for vo-tech education in the state.

Bumper Stickers -- Mike Michel (instigator of the bumper stickers) of El Paso ISD reports that over 13,000 stickers have been ordered from across the state. Several schools have contacted their local advisory committee members to assist in this project, as in Denton ISD. Tommy Thompson, vocational administrator, reports that three of their LAC members -- Victor Equipment Co., Acme Brick Co., and Andrew Corp. donated \$25.00 each to pay for ordering bumper stickers for Denton voc. ed. students.

Another Foundation Director has come through with an impressive donation. Jesse Hibbets of Dow Chemical in Freeport said his company would pay for the 9,000 bumper stickers that were disseminated at the inservice meetings this summer. Tag: \$885.00. This is another heart-warming example of support from the corporate community.

In the meantime, educators and individuals are still contributing to the Foundation. Forney High OEA Club donated \$10; the Texas Industrial Vocational Association - \$200; the 20 youth leadership chapters at Weatherford ISD - \$100; Vocational Office Education Teachers Association of Texas - \$359. Individual donations were made by Foundation Task Force member Ray Dalton, owner of Dal-Ray Electronics in San Antonio, and Vernon McGee of Austin, former chair of the Advisory Council.

SPOTLITE ON STUDENTS

The city of White Deer is a much safer place to drive now, thanks to the special efforts of a traffic engineer on contract with the Department and a group of high school students.

Area Traffic Engineer Patti Brock of West Texas State University, and on contract with the Traffic Safety Section, surveyed the city to help determine what traffic signs were needed and where, then helped the city obtain federal and state assistance in funding.

The city bought 133 signs from the Texas Department of Corrections and was reimbursed by DHT for the cost of \$2,094.

But Mayor Virgil James found that a local labor shortage might prevent him from getting the signs erected. He contacted Ag Co-op Instructor Mike Littrell at White Deer High School to discuss the possibility of having his students handle the installation. The class voted to take on the project.

There were some problems at first in getting the signs erected at proper uniform heights, but the class came back to lengthen the posts. Littrell and some of his students worked this summer to complete the project.

The students seem to have enjoyed performing such a civic duty, and Littrell's class of 1981-82 has already voted to handle the installation in a special sign replacement program for the nearby city of Skellytown.

The project appears to have given the students a sense of pride in their community and a greater understanding of the importance of safety signs.

...Transportation News

Published by the Texas State Department of Highways and Public Transportation

Voc Ed Gets Low Grades

Vocational education came in on the bottom of the list in a recent survey of how well parents think the public schools teach various subjects.

Only 35 percent of parents in a Gallup poll for the education association Phi Delta Kappa were willing to give voc ed an "A" or "B" grade. Another 21 percent said it deserved a "D" or a failing grade.

Ratings for voc ed varied slightly by parents' age and educational background, and whether or not they have children in public school. Only 6 percent of those aged 18 to 34 gave vocational education an "A", compared with 7 percent of those with college background and 8 percent of those with publicly educated children. Gallup noted there is probably overlap between categories.

That pattern was similar in "B" grades, which came from 21 percent of the 18- to 34- year olds, 26 percent of the college-educated and 28 percent of the public school parents.

There was more variance in attitudes by region, the poll showed. Vocational education got the most applause from the South, where 39 percent of the respondents gave it an "A" or "B." The lowest rating came from the West, where 29 percent said voc ed deserved an "A" or "B." In the Midwest, the figure was 36 percent and in the East, 35 percent.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is just another indication of why a statewide public information project is needed for vocational education.)

"GOODIES" CORNER

POSITION PAPER ON LABOR SHORTAGE -- The American Vocational Association has published a position paper on The Shortage of Skilled Workers to be used by policy-makers and legislators. The paper is short and concise (32 pages) and contains many good facts and statistics about the job market for the 1980's. It is good reference material for all vocational counselors and teachers. To order a copy or for more information, contact AVA, 2020 North 14th Street,

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("Goodies" Corner, Continued from Page 3)

Arlington, VA 22201.

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SEX EQUITY PUBLICATION AVAILABLE -- Steps Toward Sex Equity in Vocational Education: An Inservice Training Design is a model inservice training program on sex equity. The model can be useful (1) for conducting one-day training sessions for vocational education personnel and (2) to help vocational educators, students and parents understand the need for sex equity in voc. ed. and the steps which may be taken to achieve such equity. The publication contains many good facts and statistics about women in the workplace. For further information, contact: Harriet Medaris, Education Program Specialist, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, Room 5624, ROB #3, 7th and D Streets, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202, (202)245-0636.

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RESOURCE ON OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION -- A Counselor's Guide to Occupational Information is a gold mine of material available on occupational information. This publication describes occupational guidance and related material available from Federal Government agencies. These agencies collect, analyze and publish information on a variety of topics of interest to counselors, students, parents and others concerned with careers. To order, write U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, D.C. 20212, regarding Bulletin 2042.

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**The Advisory Council for Technical
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NEW AVA YEARBOOK LOOKS AT FUTURE WORK TRENDS -- Lifelong learning, expanding adult populations, six career changes in one lifetime, a decline in some traditionally strong American industries and a boom in other "high-tech" ones--these are but a few of the trends discussed by the authors of The Future of Vocational Education, the 1981 Yearbook of the American Vocational Association.

Just issued in both hardback and paperback, the 300-page indexed book takes an in-depth look at a variety of issues, policies and trends that are going to affect the delivery and content of vocational education in the United States during the next 10 years.

The Future of Vocational Education is available for \$16 in hardback and \$8 in paperback from Special Publications, The American Vocational Association, 2020 N. 14th Street, Arlington, VA 22201. A 10 percent discount is available for orders of 10 or more.

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