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# NewsLine

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Lionel  
"Skip"  
Meno

## Texas Education: Exciting, Sobering, and Challenging

"The opportunities and challenges that Texas education represents are exciting as well as sobering," Lionel "Skip" Meno told the Texas Council on Vocational Education in a letter dated March 7.

Meno, deputy commissioner for Elementary and Secondary Education at the New York State Education Department, is slated to become Commissioner of Education at the Texas Education Agency on July 1. Responding to a T/COVE letter of congratulations on being nominated by Governor Ann Richards, Meno said, "enabling Texas students to meet their full potential will take the combined and coordinated effort of all Texans."

Meno — who once served as superintendent of schools in Syracuse and is a former member of the New York State Council on Vocational Education — was recommended by the State Board of Education after a nationwide search to replace W. N. Kirby, who retired January 31. The Board named Tom Anderson, a deputy commissioner at TEA, to serve as interim commissioner.

At his Senate confirmation hearing on March 19, Meno said, "I'm not bringing any cookbook from New York. If I bring anything from New York, it would be a series of processes, not canned programs. Canned programs don't work. The best programs are home grown." His confirmation was awaiting full Senate action as *Newsline* went to press.

## Corporate Downsizing Shifts Focus to Small Businesses

Most large corporations are downsizing to be competitive in the international marketplace, which makes it increasingly important for schools to become more attuned to small businesses, said Sam Webster, manager of Education Affairs at Texas Instruments, in speaking at a *Public Forum on Vocational Education and the Job Training Partnership Act*, held February 7 in Dallas.

"It is much easier to focus on the needs of big business because of the number of jobs that can be generated by a single company," said Webster, "but it is important to understand that the small companies provide the greatest growth in new jobs."

The Dallas forum was one of seven conducted across Texas during January and February by the Texas Council on Vocational Education to evaluate the impact of federal and state education, employment, and training reforms on local schools and colleges. Nearly 500 individuals — representing both the public and private sectors — participated in roundtable discussions at forums held in Dallas, Cotulla, Vernon, Beaumont, El Paso, Harlingen, and Austin. T/COVE will submit recommendations in May to state and federal policymakers.



Sam Webster

Webster cited several other concerns, including:  
• business should help schools get started (e.g. equipment), not carry their burden forever. Significant changes

need to be made in how equipment and capital needs of education are met and sustained. A major corporation's resources are small in comparison to the requests received from educational institutions and organizations;

•the liability issue has taken on significant importance in recent years in reducing the corporate willingness to support student intern programs;

•education — at all levels — pays little  
(See EDUCATION, page 2)

## Banquet Honors Awards Recipients

They came from all over Texas — a mixture of the gifted and the average, of who's who and potential dropouts, the able and the disabled, the abused and the fortunate, those who helped and those who benefited from help — sharing the common bond of "success" in the classroom and community.

The occasion was the fourth annual *Texas Vocational Education Awards Program* banquet, held March 9 in Austin. Coordinated by T/COVE and sponsored by a vocational-technical foundation with support from businesses and organizations, the awards banquet paid homage to outstanding high school and college students, business and education partnerships, and exemplary advisory committees that work with schools and colleges.

Every school district and college in Texas was asked last fall to submit nominations for "excellence" awards in eight categories. The banquet — attended by 236 award recipients, family members, friends, and supporters — acknowledged the accomplishments of three finalists and one winner in each category. Following are the award winners (note: a special *Newsline* edition will be  
(See RECIPIENTS, page 2)

## Inside This Issue:

	Page
•New Degrees Approved	2
•State Plan Up for Approval	2
•Federal Allocation Announced	3
•Troyer Accepts Maryland Post	3
•T/COVE Sets Meeting Dates	3
•General Education Honored	4

# Coordinating Board Approves New A.A.S. Degrees

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board — at its quarterly meeting in January — approved five associate degree programs, adopted rules impacting proprietary schools, and approved the project areas to be funded in 1991-92 with federal vocational dollars.

**Applied Science Degrees.** Associate degrees approved were Travel and Tourism (Amarillo College); Professional Medical Secretary and Word Processing Specialist (Del Mar College); Personal Computer Support (Eastfield College); and Geographic Information Technology (Kilgore College).

**Proprietary Schools.** Rules were adopted that will ensure that associate degrees offered by proprietary schools meet the same standards as associate degrees offered by public institutions. Standards address a core curriculum in "general studies," faculty, a structured curricula, licensure

and certification requirements, program advisory committee, and program quality. There are about 65 associate degrees offered by 27 proprietary schools. These programs must have Coordinating Board approval by June 16, 1993.

**Federal Projects.** Project areas ap-

proved for federal vocational funding in 1991-92 are curriculum development, professional development, model programs & demonstration projects, research, and tech-prep. Subsequent to the Board meeting, specific projects were identified in each area and a bidder's conference was held in late January. A list of projects are on file with the Coordinating Board (512/483-6240).

**4-Year Campuses.** The Board approved a request to retain health related associate degrees at Angelo State University, Midwestern State University, Tarleton State University, and the University of Texas-Pan American.

## State Plan Approval Expected at April 13 State Board Meeting

The State Board of Education — at its April 12-13 meeting in Austin — is expected to review and approve the *State Plan for Federal Vocational Funding for Program Years 1992-94*.

The plan — jointly developed by the Texas Education Agency and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board — sets forth goals, objectives and assurances for meeting the provisions of the *Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act of 1990*. Developed utilizing suggestions from a variety of groups and individuals including the Texas Council on Vocational Education, the plan must be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education by May 1, and must receive the USDE's approval by July 1 for Texas to receive federal vocational funds in 1991-92.

At its April or May meeting, the Board is expected to approve projects to be funded with federal vocational dollars during the 1991-92 program year which begins July 1.

The Board — at its February meeting — approved an "alternative" staff and services reduction plan for the Texas Education Agency should the Legislature reduce state agency budgets by 10 percent as a part of a plan to address the state's fiscal crisis. The alternative plan would eliminate 49 TEA full-time positions, including 11 in vocational programs. Lawmakers are considering a plan to eliminate 50 positions at TEA but in a different manner, except for voc ed.

### Legislative Issues

Public school finance, prisons, the environment, human services, and budget deficits are among the issues making the 72nd Legislative Session one of the most challenging and interesting in Texas history. A legislative roundup will be provided at the end of the regular session.

## Awards Recipients

(Continued from page 1)

published in April that will include finalists):

•**Outstanding Secondary Student:** *Diana Kucherka*, senior, Office Administrative Systems, Seguin High School;

•**Outstanding Postsecondary Student:** *Amanda Harrison*, Data Entry, The Edmund J. Kahn Job Training Center, Dallas County Community College District;

•**Outstanding Secondary Special Achievement Student:** *Norma Arredondo*, junior, Fabens High School, and Office Education student, El Paso ISD Technical High School;

•**Outstanding Postsecondary Special Achievement Student:** *Lana Delgado*, sophomore, Travel and Tourism, North Harris County College - Kingwood Campus;

•**Business/Labor Involvement:** *Bell Helicopter Textron, Inc.*, Fort Worth, partnership with Tarrant County Junior College District;

•**Exemplary Advisory Committee:** *Career Development Advisory Committee*, Plano ISD;

•**Outstanding Secondary Non-Traditional Student - Female:** *Jo Ann Petty*, senior, Agriculture Science/Business, Kennard High School; and

•**Outstanding Secondary Non-Traditional Student - Male:** *Chad Carlton*, senior, Office Administrative Systems, Friendswood High School.

### Deans/Directors to Meet

The semi-annual Texas Association of Postsecondary Occupational Education Administrators conference is scheduled April 3-5 at the Radisson Hotel in Austin. The conference theme is *New Growth, New Opportunities, New Training Teams for Texas*.

### THECB Meeting Set

The next meeting of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board will be April 18-19 at the Coordinating Board complex in Austin.

## Education

(Continued from page 1)

attention to cost control, cost containment, or cost reduction. The traditional approach has been to simply raise more money to cover increasing costs. This cannot continue. Business — under constant pressure to control its costs — has to have concern about providing education support when the system appears reluctant to implement new productive processes and methodologies to bring its costs under control;

•U.S. companies spend \$40 billion annually on remediating worker skills that should have been mastered at the elementary and secondary levels. Colleges also reallocate scarce resources to bring high school graduates up to the college entrance level. It is not very productive to pay for the same education two and three times. The \$40 billion from business could be shifted to the education system and more college resources shifted to the primary and secondary levels if not for remediation.

# Federal '91-92 Vocational Funds Set at \$71 Million

Texas is scheduled to receive \$71 million federal dollars for vocational education in Program Year 1991-92, which compares

to \$65 million for the current year, according to figures released in February by the U.S. Department of Education. The '91-92 pro-

gram year begins July 1. Congress appropriated \$1 billion for vocational education nationwide, \$68 million more than the current level. Under provisions of the *Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act of 1990* — signed by President Bush last September — \$966 million is divided among the states and territories, with the balance reserved for national initiatives. Texas ranks second to California's \$87 million in dollars allocated among the states.

The Texas Legislature has yet to appropriate state funds for 1991-92. State funding for the current year is nearly \$550 million.

Of the \$71,043,563 in federal funds allocated to Texas, \$62.7 million constitutes a basic grant to support local and state initiatives to improve and modernize vocational education, \$4.8 million is targeted for tech-prep initiatives linking high school and college programs, \$2.3 million is earmarked to assist in conducting consumer and home-making programs, \$877,826 is targeted for use by community-based organizations, and \$223,172 is allocated to T/COVE to support its operation.

The federal allocation — except for the amount earmarked for T/COVE — will be divided between the secondary and postsecondary levels. A Joint Committee — comprised of representatives from the State Board of Education, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, T/COVE, and the Texas Department of Commerce — set a meeting for April 3 in Austin to discuss various options. The State Board of Education — which meets April 13 — has final say in how the funds are divided.

The overall percentage split of federal funds between the secondary and postsecondary levels for the current year is 58/42, with the secondary level receiving the majority of funds. Federal funds, for the most part, are disbursed using formulas and competitive bidding, depending on the category.

The 1990 Perkins Act — compared to previous federal legislation — targets funds to fewer training sites, places greater emphasis on producing well-rounded students, and concentrates resources on serving special population groups (e.g., disadvantaged, handicapped, and limited English proficient individuals). Federal funds shall be used to provide vocational programs that (1) are of such size, scope, and quality as to be effective, (2) integrate academic and vocational education, and (3) provide equitable participation in such programs for special populations. (See FEDERAL FUNDS, page 4)

## Four T/COVE Terms Also Expire

# Troyer Accepts Maryland Post, Creates Vacancy on T/COVE

Diane Troyer, dean of Business and Technology at El Paso Community College, has resigned from the 13-member Texas Council on Vocational Education, effective April 1, to become vice president of Academic Affairs and Student Services at Harford Community College in Bel Air, Maryland.

She was appointed to the Council last year and was serving a 3-year term representing postsecondary institutions that provide occupational education. She began her career in occupational education as an allied health instructor and for the past 18-years had served in various positions at El Paso Community College, including five years as business and technology dean.

Troyer's resignation brings to five the number of Council members who are in line to either be replaced or reappointed. The terms of four members expired February 1. They are William E. Zinsmeyer, chair, a San Antonio businessman; Marcus Hill, vice chair, a Fort Worth businessman; Lewis Cook, a Houston attorney; and Bert Marcom, an Austin Community College executive. All four will serve until reappointed or replaced.

Zinsmeyer, a member of the Council since 1985 and chair the past three years, has said it is time for him to step down. "It has been a great honor and gratifying experience representing the business community as a member of the Council. Our Council has and continues to play a key role in the

improvement and modernization of vocational education."

"Education is undergoing substantial changes as we strive for a work force that is highly competitive both domestically and internationally," said Zinsmeyer, "but somehow we've gone overboard on rules and administration that are stifling efforts to better educate our kids. Somehow, somehow we have to get back to working for the kids — to find a balance."

Hill, Cook, and Marcom were appointed to the Council in 1990 and drew 1-year terms when a change in state law required Council members to begin serving staggered terms. Members are recommended by the Governor, appointed by the State Board of Education, and confirmed by the State Senate. Both Hill and Marcom have indicated they would like to be reappointed. Cook — because of a requirement in federal and state laws — would have to remain a member of the State Job Training Coordinating Council to continue service on T/COVE. The SJTCC oversees the Job Training Partnership Act.

## T/COVE Sets Meeting Dates

The Texas Council on Vocational Education has set the meeting dates and locations for its next two meetings. The Council will meet May 3 at the Wyndham Hotel in San Antonio, and July 18-19 at the Radisson Hotel in Corpus Christi. For more information about the meetings, including start times and agenda items, contact the T/COVE office.



Diane Troyer



William Zinsmeyer



Marcus Hill



Lewis Cook



Elbert Marcom

## Voc Ed Students Honor General Education for Leadership

The Texas Education Agency's General Education Division was honored by vocational education student organization leaders at a special ceremony on February 11 in recognition of its leadership for the public schools, said Judith Hetherly, state director for home economics, who assisted in planning the event.

Scheduled as a part of Vocational Education Week, which ran February 10-16, the

ceremony was held at the TEA in Austin. General education division personnel were presented with "certificates of appreciation."

Governor Ann Richards joined with vocational educators in honoring the general educators by issuing a proclamation which in part read, "our young people are our greatest resource and their education and training is of the utmost importance as we move into the high technology future. It is through these means that we can be assured a productive and prosperous future for our state and nation."

The governor went on to say, "education has become the critical link between future technology and future jobs, providing Texas citizens with a broad range of academic, technical, and vocational skills that will enhance their entrance, adaptability, and upward mobility in the work force. I am proud to have this opportunity to join with vocational educators in honoring the Texas Education Agency, General Education Division, for the leadership it provides for the public schools of Texas."



**Governor Ann Richards**

Will Reece, Executive Director  
George F. Matott, Program Officer  
Lynda Rife, Chief Researcher  
Valeria Blaschke, Adm. Technician  
Selena Calley, Secretary

### Federal Funds

(Continued from page 3)

tions. Funds may be used for such activities as upgrading curriculum, purchasing equipment, inservice training for academic and vocational teachers, guidance and counseling, remedial courses, tech-prep programs, supplementary services for special populations, apprenticeship programs, mentorship programs, and contracting with private sector entities for training.

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