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ACTIVE news

The Advisory Council For Technical-Vocational Education In Texas



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VOC ED EXPERIENCES PROFOUND GROWTH

Vocational education in Texas experienced a profound growth between 1968-69 and 1973-74. It rose from relative obscurity to be recognized as a valuable "bridge between man and his work" through its emphasis on "learning by doing."

Based upon information compiled by the ACTIVE from published Texas Education Agency reports, vocational enrollments at all levels (secondary, post-secondary and adult) increased by 65 percent from 497,609 in '68-69 to 820,453 in '73-74.

The total number of persons teaching vocational programs at all levels increased 90 percent from 7,364 in '68-69 to 14,018 in '73-74. The number of guidance and administrative personnel working in vocational education increased 319 percent from 185 to 775 during this period of time.

Dollars obligated for vocational education in Texas increased by 187 percent from \$63.4 million in '68-69 to \$182.3 million in '73-74. The ratio of state/local to federal dollars invested in vocational education during this period increased from \$3.15:1 to \$4.66:1.

The rate of inflation increased about 23.6 percent between 1968-69 and 1973-74 which means that the level of vocational programs and services financed for \$182.3 million in 1973-74 could have been financed for about \$139.1 million in 1968-69.

Just over \$714 million was obligated for vocational programs at all levels during this period of time.

Persons completing vocational programs on an annual basis at all levels rose from 40,217 in '68-69 to 111,205 in '73-74, a 177 percent increase.

The number of students participating in vocational youth organizations increased by 18 percent from 166,378 in '68-69 to 195,680 in '73-74.

The percent of all secondary students in Texas (grades 9-12) who enrolled in vocational programs jumped from 34 percent in 1968-69 to 45 percent in 1973-74. Just over 42 percent of all students enrolled in public post-secondary institutions (excluding senior colleges) in 1973-74 participated in vocational programs while 39 percent participated in 1968-69.

Public school districts offering vocational programs actually decreased during this period from 959 to 937; however, the percent of all school districts in Texas offering vocational programs increased from about 78 to 80 percent as the total number of school districts continues to decrease. Community Col-
(See GROWTH, page 2)



SENATOR BROOKS HONORED

ACTIVE Executive Director Alton Ice (left) presents a citation on behalf of the Council to State Sen. Chet Brooks of Pasadena at a November 20 dinner in Houston, honoring the Senator for his outstanding service to Texas and vocational education.

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leges offering vocational programs increased from about 40 to 56 during this period of time.

Federal funds and guidelines generated by the 1963 Vocational Education Act and its subsequent 1968 Amendments, which in turn sparked greater state and local support, provided the catalyst by which vocational education has grown at a phenomenal rate.

"TEXAS FIRST PROGRAM"
STRIVING TOWARD GOAL

Last May Governor Dolph Briscoe made a pledge to make TEXAS FIRST in business and industrial development.

He revealed plans for an indepth job creation campaign to offset the recession and curb a climbing unemployment rate across Texas. He set a goal of identifying 4,000 available jobs during a 12 month period, a goal that was revised upward to 15,000 one month later.



DOLPH BRISCOE

Known as the "Texas First Program," nearly 20,000 unfilled business and industry jobs have been identified across Texas as of December 1.

These are new jobs created through industrial expansion or relocation, or jobs that have existed but have gone unfilled because people either did not know about them or are not qualified to fill them.

As of December 1, employers have pledged to hire 7,061 new workers. The emphasis of the Texas First Program is to place unemployed and underemployed Texans in them.

The program asks businesses to pledge to hire more workers. "Once a company makes this pledge, the state will train Texans, if training is needed, to meet the skills required for the new jobs," says Briscoe.

Five state agencies are involved in the program: Texas Industrial Commission; Texas Education Agency; Texas Employment Commission;

Texas Department of Community Affairs; and the Governor's Office, Division of Planning Coordination.

The training of workers for these jobs is carried out through the already successful Texas Start-Up Training Program, working through the Industrial Commission, Education Agency and local training institutions.

Governor Briscoe noted that the program is returning about four dollars for every one invested. Additional training will be accomplished by use of CETA funds (Concentrated Employment Training Act) through local manpower development sponsors.

As jobs become available, local TEC and Manpower Services personnel attempt to fill them from an existing job bank of people looking for work. If the jobs cannot be filled from this job bank, then they are posted for the general public.

"As companies hire the workers, we will recognize their contributions to helping Texas growth, and helping Texas combat a recession that is crippling other parts of the nation," Briscoe said.

CONFERENCE SITES TENTATIVELY SET

Twenty communities have tentatively agreed to host "Impact Conferences" during February 1976.

Sponsored by the ACTIVE, the purpose of the conferences is to assess the impact that vocational, technical, manpower, and adult education programs and services are having in meeting individual and community needs for living and making a living.

School officials, present and former students, employers, civic and community action type groups, and the general public will be called upon through survey questionnaires, "mini-forums," and rap sessions to assess the education programs and services in their community.

Communities tentatively agreeing to host conferences include: Amarillo, Baytown, Beeville, Bryan-College Station, El Paso, Fort Worth, Garland, Kerrville, La Grange, Lamesa, Longview, Lufkin, McAllen, Mineral Wells, Paris, Port Arthur, Sweetwater, Tulia, (See CONFERENCES, Page 3)

(CONFERENCES, continued from page 2)

and Waco. Planning meetings between the ACTIVE and communities will be held between December 17-19 and January 12-26 with the actual conferences to be held between February 2-27, with the exception of McAllen, which will host a conference March 4.

Concerns and recommendations voiced in these conferences will provide the foundations for the Council's 1976 reports to the Governor, State Board of Education, and Legislature. The findings will also be transmitted to the U.S. Commissioner of Education.

BILINGUAL WORKSHOP HELD

More than 100 participants in a November 10 workshop in Austin called for the Texas Education Agency to become more involved in bilingual vocational education.

They were attending an Agency sponsored conference designed to acquaint administrators with the provisions for federal funding of bilingual vocational education programs and to encourage planning of such programs within institutions of the state.

In addressing the workshop, educational consultant Mary Galvan said vocational education has served minority students better than general education, but there are still too few minorities in vocational education. The number of minority vocational educators is even lower, she said.

The limited amounts of federal funds for bilingual vocational education is only "seed money," speakers said, and there is a need to integrate the bilingual program into the regular state vocational program.

Mrs. Galvan said more bilingual vocational education programs are needed for secondary students, out-of-school youth, and adults.

There also is a need for better identification of people with limited English speaking ability, development of models of good bilingual vocational education programs, and more staff development and curriculum development for bilingual vocational education, she said.

At the conclusion of the conference, participants passed a resolution calling for the

Texas Education Agency to hire a staff member who specializes in bilingual vocational education.

Other workshop speakers were L. Harland Ford and Arturo Gutierrez of the Texas Education Agency and Doris Gunderson of the U.S. Office of Education.

TRAINING CENTER TO OPEN

A "Contemporary Occupational Training Center," operated by the Houston Independent School District, will open its doors for the first time about January 12.

The Center, which will serve primarily young people 14-17 years old who are dropouts or on the verge of dropping out of school, was due to open December 1. Delays in renovating an old Chevrolet dealership building, home of the Center, in downtown Houston forced the opening to be moved back.

Dorothy Doreck, COTC director, says the primary objective of the Center is the motivation of young people who cannot or do not function in the regular school program.

The Center will accommodate 180 students when it opens although about 260 students had indicated a desire to enroll as of December 1.

Courses will be operated on the quarter system in the following areas: Business Education; Building Maintenance; Construction; Graphics; Mechanics; and Welding. Courses will also be offered in English and Math.

"Our facilities provide pre-employment (shop) labs and study areas to enable students to learn job skills and to continue academic classes on a limited basis," says Mrs. Doreck.

Students may receive high school credits for work completed if they desire. "We are encouraging every student to make an effort to further their education and get their high school diploma," Mrs. Doreck added.

Assisting Mrs. Doreck at the Center will be six vocational teachers, two academic teachers, one vocational counselor, and one secretary.

Mrs. Doreck anticipates that the Center will be operating on a year around basis.

PELL INTRODUCES VOC ED LEGISLATION

Rhode Island Democratic Senator Claiborne Pell, chairman of the Senate Education Subcommittee, introduced legislation (S 2657) November 11 to extend and revise the Vocational Education Act of 1963 and its 1968 Amendments.

While not a committee bill, it will be used by the committee during "mark-up" and it reflects the wishes of the committee chairman for revisions to present legislation.

The American Vocational Association, while recognizing that much of S 2657 is similar to concepts presented by AVA, notes there are some proposals that do not meet the identified needs in vocational education.

Lowell Burkett, executive director of the AVA, identified in a November 21 memo to State Directors of Vocational Education some problem areas with the legislation. Two of the problem areas identified are the "lack of a definition for vocational education" and that "state grants are not a continuing authorization."

Burkett also noted that the proposed legislation lacks a definition of administration at the state level. Other problem areas relate to the distribution of funds; the structure of the State Board for Vocational Education; the identifying of students for vocational guidance and counseling; the coordination of personnel training and leadership development awards; the coordination of emergency assistance for remodeling and renovation programs; and the establishment of a vocational education institute in the National Institute of Education.

Persons interested in studying and analyzing the implications for vocational education that the bill would have should it become law, are encouraged to contact their Congressman to secure a copy.

FEBRUARY 8-14 VEW

February 8-14 will be National Vocational Education Week and the theme will be "Reaching Out Through Vocational Education."

Will Reece, *editor*.

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