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October-November 1984

THE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN TEXAS

ACTIVE Reviews Adult Education

Wearing the double hat of State Advisory Council for Technical-Vocational Education and State Advisory Committee for Adult Education, the ACTIVE met October 1-3 in Corpus Christi in conjunction with the State Adult Education Conference, sponsored by the Texas Education Agency.

In order to more fully carry out the responsibility of advising the State Board of Education on adult education, the Council heard testimony from adult educators from across the State.

Houston ISD General Superintendent Billy Reagan presented an overview of the innovative activities occurring in Houston to curtail illiteracy. (See related article **Houston Attacks Illiteracy.**)

Federal legislative activities were described in detail by Gary Eyre, Executive Director of the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education from Washington, D.C.

The Adult Education Study conducted by Texas A&M University was outlined. This study was an evaluation of the federal adult basic education program and the state program. Examples of areas reviewed in the study include comprehensive programs, program planning, co-op system, staffing, and drop-out rate.

An overview of adult education in Texas was presented by the Texas Education Agency staff.

Adult education legislative and policy

"Vocational Education: The Next Step"

The Advisory Council for Technical-Vocational Education in Texas is in the process of finalizing a report which will go to the new State Board of Education, Governor Mark White, and the 69th Legislature. The report will be finalized by December 1.

The report, to be entitled "Vocational Education: The Next Step," will contain recommendations addressing the implementation of the new education reform legislation (H.B. 72) as well as other issues relevant to vocational education at both the secondary and post-secondary levels. Funding, teacher certification, master planning, and education/private sector initiatives will be among the issues addressed.

The report will be automatically disseminated to the State Board, Governor's Office, and Legislature. If you would like to receive a copy of this report, contact the Council office now in order that additional copies of the report can be published.

issues, presented by representatives of the Texas Association for Continuing Adult Education, focused on "funding."

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Houston Attacks Illiteracy



Billy Reagan Addresses ACTIVE

Houston Independent School District General Superintendent Billy Reagan is leading a joint school/community attack on illiteracy in Houston.

In speaking at an ACTIVE meeting October 2 in Corpus Christi, Reagan discussed several strategies underway or being considered, including "Operation FAIL-SAFE," a parent tutoring program, and a proposal to establish a Houston Metropolitan Area Research Development and Educational Center for Literacy Dropout Prevention and Citizenship.

"FAIL-SAFE (Family Achievement in Learning: Sharing Accountability for Education), developed over the past five years, is geared toward effecting a positive change in a child's educational achievement through parent tutoring," said Reagan.

Sponsored by HISD, FAIL-SAFE offers training sessions for parents where they learn the fundamentals of tutoring and how to work with professionals to identify the child's weaknesses in basic skills. Parents acquire knowledge of reading readiness and how it relates to beginning instruction, said Reagan.

Training sessions also focus on parents preparing to assist the child in improving reading and math skills, becoming acquainted with oral language experiences, becoming acquainted with questioning techniques, and

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assisting the child in the selection of library books. Parents also grasp an understanding of the instructional materials and the individualized basic skills prescriptions designed to effect a positive change in the child's educational achievement through parent tutoring.

"One of the pluses of FAIL-SAFE is the fact that parents are learning also," said Reagan. "We have been amazed and overwhelmed by the willingness of parents, particularly our disadvantaged, bilingual and low-income parents, to be a part of working with their children."

FAIL-SAFE has a component that provides training for parents on the use of computers that is geared toward attacking technological illiteracy. "We are in danger of creating an educational gap that is greater than ever in the history of this country," said Reagan.

Reagan noted that "we have an incredible problem with equity access to technology." To combat the problem of disadvantaged homes not having access to computers, Houston ISD, through its pilot program, brings the parents in for training and then loans them computers to take home and work with their children.

The Houston Metropolitan Area Research Development and Educational Center for Literacy, Dropout Prevention and Citizenship, still in the discussion stages, would provide the mechanism for providing literacy and dropout education on a massive scale, said Reagan.

Fifteen percent of the total Greater Houston area population is functionally illiterate (reading below the fourth grade level). That amounts to over 360,000 people or about one-third of the adult population.

The Center's primary thrust would be to deal with the totality of literacy education as a family centered problem. The secondary

mission would be to investigate the causes for dropouts among our high school age youth, to develop intervention strategies to reduce the numbers involved, and to evaluate the relationships between dropouts and illiteracy, said Reagan.

Prime consideration would be given to developing new instruction methods utilizing high technology and mass communications. The prime focus in teaching strategies will be working with the family unit. Home learning will be emphasized with the use of microcomputers and television.

The proposed center would be a joint effort involving the education community and Houston Chamber of Commerce.

Reagan also discussed HISD's English as a Second Language project, involving the use of computers. "When field tested with El Salvador student immigrants who could speak no English, they developed 100 to 125 English vocabulary words in only seven days," said Reagan.

Of HISD's 180,000 students, 33,000 are non-English speakers. Over 16,000 students were born in foreign countries.

To learn more about Operation FAIL-SAFE the proposed educational literacy center, and the ESL project, contact Dr. Billy Reagan, General Superintendent, Houston ISD, 3830 Richmond, Houston, Texas 77027, (713)623-5011.

Council Members in Spotlight

BILL CARTER, ACTIVE member and state representative, received a Presidential Commendation Award for dedication to vocational education through services on both state and local advisory committees. He received the award at the National Conference on Private Sector Involvement in Vocational Education, held October 9-11, in Washington, D.C.

SHIRLENE COOK, ACTIVE member and Home Economics Cooperative Education teacher Beaumont ISD, recently was honored at "A Southeast Texas Celebration of Women in Texas Week" hosted by Lamar University. She was one of seven nominees by Southeast Texas to the Texas Women's Hall of Fame.

JAN EISENHOUR FRIEDHEIM, ACTIVE Vice Chairperson and owner of the Executive Secretarial School in Dallas, was recently inducted into the Texas Association of Private Schools (TAPS) Hall of Honor. This honor was bestowed at the TAPS Convention held August 1-3 at Tapatio Springs, Boerne, Texas.

DR. S. DON ROGERS, ACTIVE member and former chairperson, was selected as the outstanding superintendent for Region 13 which includes 55 school districts by the Texas Association of School Boards. Rogers, Superintendent of Eanes ISD, was honored September 30 at the TASB-TASA Convention held in San Antonio.

C. G. MICHEL, ACTIVE former chairperson and Assistant Superintendent for Vocational Education, El Paso ISD, was presented a plaque by the Advisory Council for outstanding service as Chairperson for 1983-84.

Council Sets Statewide Conference

The Advisory Council is working with the Texas Economic Development Commission in sponsoring a statewide conference on vocational education and economic development. The conference, entitled "Texas Conference on Vocational Education and Economic Development," is scheduled for February 7-8 at the Holidome in Austin. The theme "VocEd: The Next Step" will be developed by focusing on four main issues: (1) Redefining the Role of Vocational Education: The Business and Industry Point of View; (2) Guaranteeing Economic Development through Quality Vocational Education; (3) Maximizing the Use of School Facilities and Equipment through Joint Ventures with the Private Sector; and (4) Getting the Message: Tomorrow's Employment Picture." Those who would like to receive a specific invitation and program material should contact the ACTIVE office. There will be more detailed information in the next issue.

The Rest of the Story: Voc Ed Successes

Marketing and Distributive Education graduate Rodney Schlosser is president of the 48,000 member Student Association at the University of Texas in Austin. At age 19, this Houstonian may be the youngest president of this association in recent history. Managing a budget of nearly \$100,000, he supervises a paid staff of five and presides over the Student Senate.

A 1982 graduate of Bellaire High School in Houston, Schlosser's ultimate career goal is to work as an advertising executive on Madison Avenue in New York City.

He set goals early in his educational career at Bellaire. While working on volunteer community projects, Rodney gained some experience with the media. This association triggered his interest in advertising. Being a young man that knows where he is going, he has developed a meaningful career game plan.

As an "A" student and in high school honor classes, Rodney determined he needed more than the traditional academic classes to further his career ambition.

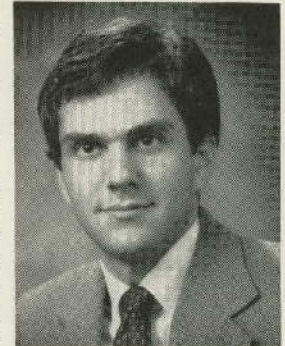
Rodney decided he needed firsthand experience in a meaningful training situation. M/DE provided an opportunity for a qualified professional to provide the time and place for him to gain actual experience in the area of his career interests.

Working closely with his M/DE coordinator, Alice McKinney, he was hired by the Houston Bar Association. He worked as the Assistant Director of Publications for two years. Reporting directly to the executive director, Rodney held a training position that provided a variety of experiences, invaluable training, and a great deal of responsibility. The variety of tasks he performed, the communication skills he gained, and the insight into the business world could not be duplicated in any academic class. He was in the REAL world.

In explaining the laboratory part of his M/DE program, he stated that his teacher developed projects to meet his specific career needs. The flexibility in the regular general merchandising curriculum allowed him to gain valuable experience directly related to the profession he is pursuing.

Schlosser is definitely far down the road to success. Vocational education was the only vehicle available to provide an opportunity to facilitate his career objectives with meaningful experiences.

Rodney is only one of many voc ed successes. Please contact the ACTIVE office with details of other student's success stories. With the "tarnished image" voc ed has suffered, it is imperative that the "rest of the story" be told.



HERE AND THERE

Master Plan

ACTIVE SETS MEETINGS -- The Advisory Council for Technical-Vocational Education scheduled meetings as follows: November 15-16, 1984, Austin; February 7-8, 1985, Austin; April 11-12, 1985, Austin; and June 13-14, 1985, Austin. Meeting agendas will be available from the ACTIVE office.

AVA UPCOMING MEETINGS -- American Vocational Association 1984 Convention is slated for November 30 - December 4, 1984, in New Orleans. The convention will feature nationally known speakers, a giant trade show, and the latest information for all vocational occupational fields.

"Vocational Education: Excellence for a New Age" is the theme of the AVA Region IV Mini-Convention being held March 21-24, 1985, in Dallas/Fort Worth at the AMFAC Hotel.

For additional information, contact the AVA at 2020 N. 14th Street, Arlington, Virginia 22201, (701)522-6121.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK DRAWS CLOSER -- "Voc Ed: Real Learning" is the theme of Vocational Education Week to be held February 10-16, 1985. Now is the time to begin preparation for this special week. ACTIVE has materials available to help in planning and implementing activities for this week. A

(HERE AND THERE, Continued on Page 4)

The education reform legislation (H.B. 72) signed into law July 13, 1984, calls for a Master Plan to be developed for vocational education.

The Advisory Council for Technical-Vocational Education in Texas has advocated such a plan for several years. The intent of this Master Plan, according to Will Reece, executive director of ACTIVE, is to provide a working document for making decisions about programs at both the local and state levels.

The Planning and Evaluation Committee of ACTIVE, chaired by Gay Sweet-Harris, met recently with Texas Education Agency staff to discuss the game plan for developing the plan. Ms. Sweet-Harris emphasized the need to make this a "working" document rather than a compliance document.

Recommendations for the Master Plan from ACTIVE include a mission statement; a priority occupations list; goals and objectives; and current, usable vocational data. The committee also recommended the Master Plan be completed each year in time to mail with the program applications to provide local schools with better planning information.

The TEA is currently formulating a Task Force to develop specific recommendations regarding this Master Plan.

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poster is currently being developed by ACTIVE for dissemination. For a list of available materials, contact the Council office.

The American Vocational Association also has materials available for purchase. Contact AVA directly for a list of materials (AVA, 2020 North 14th Street, Arlington, Virginia 22201).

FEDERAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION LEGISLATION PROGRESSING -- The Carl Perkins Voc Ed Act 1984 (H.R. 4164) was passed out of Congress October 5, 1984. Details of the bill will be reported in a future newsletter.

TEXAS VOC ED LEGISLATION DRAWS SPOT-LIGHT -- Texas voc ed legislation is spotlighted in the October issue of VocEd, Journal of the American Vocational Association. The feature article entitled "Under the Gun" was written by ACTIVE executive director Will Reece.

(ADULT EDUCATION, Continued from Page 1)

The practical side of adult education was represented by a panel monitored by Noe Calvillo, ACTIVE Chairperson of the Adult and Special Services Committee. The panel focused on general concerns of adult education with the solution involving additional funding.

After digesting the wealth of information provided the Council, recommendations on Adult Education will be formulated by Council members to be included in the Annual Report to be forwarded to the State Board of Educa-

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tion, the Governor, and the Legislature.

(For more information regarding any of the presentations, contact the Council office, P.O. Box 1886, Austin, Texas 78767 (512)475-2046).

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