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ACTIVE news

The Advisory Council For Technical-Vocational Education In Texas



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Vol. VII, Number 5, May 1976

Government Documents

JUL 22 1976

ACTIVE ASKS BRISCOE'S HELP *Illas Public Library*

The ACTIVE has asked Governor Dolph Briscoe's help in ensuring that present and future generations of Texas citizens do not fall victims to the fears, feelings of hopelessness, and bitter frustrations which accompany schooling that results in unemployment and underemployment, which in turn often leads to crime.

In its 7th Report to the Governor, presented in May, the ACTIVE made 8 recommendations directed at assisting Briscoe, other government officials, and educators in formulating an educational roadmap for addressing the problems of unemployment and underemployment:

1. *Young people, as they progress through the education system, must be made fully aware of labor market projections/requirements if career choices are to be realistically formulated. This means the implementation of a long overdue supply/demand information system which relates to all facets of the work world.*
2. *Career awareness, exploration, and investigation programs must be implemented in all school districts involving all students. The career education concept has been pilot tested and proven successful. It is time for career education to be fully implemented. These programs must cross both academic and vocational lines and must focus upon the realities and implications of supply/demand information.*
3. *Parents, who have the greatest influence over their children's career choices based on ACTIVE surveys, must be made fully aware of the realistic job market opportunities, and the educational programs/services offered by the*

schools that relate to these jobs. This means a greater involvement by the schools of civic groups, advisory committees, and public relations techniques.

4. *Minorities and women must be proportionately involved at all administrative levels, in the planning and management of programs/services directed at not only their needs, but also the needs of all students. Proportionate representation at all levels is imperative if the needs of all students are to be adequately served.*
5. *Concerted efforts must be made quantitatively and qualitatively in serving the needs of the following groups: disadvantaged, handicapped, and adults. This means there must be comprehensive coordination and planning between agencies and programs in the identification of needs and resources.*
6. *Understanding that the line will be held on state taxes supporting public education, all educational programs must be held accountable for their contributions to the state's overall socioeconomic growth. This means a redirection of some programs, the elimination of others, and the development and/or expansion of some programs.*
7. *Education must be funded in such a manner as to not foster competition between academic and vocational education. The actual costs of providing each program should be taken into consideration recognizing that some programs cost more than others and thus should be funded accordingly.*

(See BRISCOE'S HELP, page 2)

(BRISCOE'S HELP, continued from page 1)

8. *Funds are needed to supplement the contingency fund for post-secondary technical-vocational programs.* The contingency fund level provided in the current appropriations act provides only about a \$.25 on the dollar reimbursement for these programs, which means that administrators must curtail the establishment of new programs.

A limited number of copies of the ACTIVE's report to the Governor are available from the ACTIVE News. A variety of other concerns are also addressed in the report.

PARENTS/FRIENDS EXERT STRONG INFLUENCE ON CAREER CHOICES

Parents and friends are the most helpful to young people in the formulation of post-high school plans, a survey of Texas high school seniors reveals.

Over 42 percent of 11,407 seniors who participated in the survey ranked their parents as the "most helpful" to them in making up their minds about what to do after high school. Friends were voted the "most helpful" by 13.5 percent of the seniors.

The survey, aimed at getting some indication as to the future plans as well as past education experiences of graduating seniors, was conducted as a part of 19 Impact Conferences held statewide during February/March by the ACTIVE.

The conferences, reported on in the March and April issues of the ACTIVE News, sought to assess the extent to which vocational education is meeting the needs of Texas' society and economy.

Seniors participating in the survey were both academic and voc-ed students and represented the ethnic as well as socioeconomic composition of their communities. They were from large urban centers as well as rural communities.

The strong influence that parents/friends exert on career choices has generated considerable concern among ACTIVE members primarily because parents and friends are not fully aware of the realistic job opportunities and requirements in the labor force. (See recommendations made to Governor

Briscoe, page 1.)

Less than 4 percent of the respondents to the senior survey said that counselors were the "most helpful." Just over 3 percent found employers to be the "most helpful."

The relative low ranking of both counselors and employers is thought to be largely due to the limited exposure students have to both of these groups.

Post-High School Plans

Over 61 percent of the respondents indicated plans to seek either part-time or full-time employment after high school this spring.

Almost 60 percent of the responding seniors indicated plans to attend a post-secondary institution on a part-time or full-time basis after high school.

Nearly 42 percent of the respondents said they plan to pursue a bachelor or higher college degree.

Career Fields

Almost 20 percent said they plan to pursue a career in the Business/Office Occupations Field. Almost 13 percent indicated plans to pursue a Health Occupations career while another 7 percent indicated plans to pursue a career in the field of education.

Over 6 percent noted plans to pursue a career in the Fine Arts/Humanities Field. Almost 6 percent said they plan a career in the Construction Field.

High School Credits Earned

English, social sciences, health and physical education, math, and natural sciences, constituted nearly 70 percent of all the credits earned by the seniors during four years of high school.

Nine percent of all credits earned for four years of high school by the seniors participating in the 1976 survey were earned in voc-ed.

Similar Studies

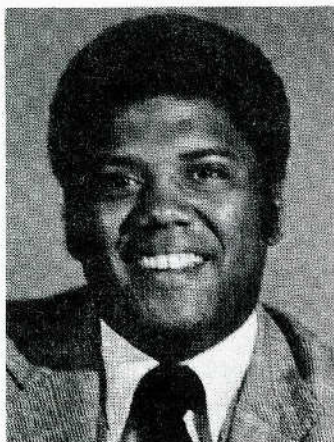
The ACTIVE conducted similar surveys of seniors in both 1974 and 1972 in connection (See PARENTS/FRIENDS, page 3)

(PARENTS/FRIENDS, continued from page 2)

with other public forum activities held in different communities across the state. The results were essentially the same then as in 1976 with the possible exceptions that more seniors in 1976 indicated plans to pursue employment after high school (mostly part-time); fewer 1976 seniors said they plan to pursue a bachelor or higher college degree; and more seniors in 1976 than in years past had earned credits in voc-ed.

MCCLURE ELECTED A&M STUDENT PRESIDENT

Frederick McClure of San Augustine, an ACTIVE member, has been elected Student President at Texas A & M University.



Frederick McClure

McClure, a 22-year-old agricultural economics major, was appointed to the ACTIVE last September by the State Board of Education upon the recommendation of Governor Dolph Briscoe.

He was a special summer intern at the White House in 1975. He had a 3.94 grade point average out of a possible 4.0 for the fall term at Texas A & M University.

McClure was the National Secretary for the Future Farmers of America in 1973-74. He was the State FFA President in 1972-73.

CAREER-ED CONFERENCE PLANNED FOR HOUSTON

The U. S. Office of Education has put up \$100,000 in seed money to sponsor a national career education conference tentatively set for November 7-10 in Houston.

Called "The Commissioner's National Conference on Career Education," the gathering will be co-sponsored by the Council of Chief States School Officers.

Of the 15,000 expected attendees, it is hoped one-third will be educators, one-third business, industry and labor representatives, and the rest community decision makers.

Conference sessions will be chaired by state

career education coordinators, who will be organizing planning committees and presentations over the coming months.

Registration and other information will be announced at a later date.

WORKER FRUSTRATION FORECAST

Increasing numbers of highly educated persons competing for a shrinking supply of good jobs commensurate with their education will mean more worker frustration that could lead to violent outbursts, warns a report released by the Institute of Life Insurance (ILI).

The ILI predicts increased worker discontent "because of the traditional stress on credentialism--degrees and diplomas--and the decision to rearrange social status via universal access to the higher education system."

As a result, "the future is likely to find us with more graduates than there are jobs needing that much education," says the ILI report. Expected to peak in the late 1970's and early 1980's, the over-supply will hit less educated persons hardest and result in more highly-educated people filling clerical and support positions.

These conditions "will lead to more public frustration and worker alienation, with increased potential for productivity slowdowns, employee sabotage, and job riots. The pressure won't let up until there is an unlikely economic boom or, out of necessity, credentialism is de-emphasized, the educational system reshaped, and the nature of jobs transformed."

Copies of the Trend Analysis Report Program, Report 12, are available from the ILI, 277 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y., 10017.

HIGH SCHOOL PREPARATION LACKING

A survey conducted by UCLA and the American Council on Education reveals that, for the most part, college freshmen in 1975 felt their high school preparation left a lot to be desired.

Of the 186,406 freshmen from 366 colleges surveyed, fewer than half could say they were well schooled in any of five major subject areas--mathematics, reading and composition, (See HIGH SCHOOL, page 4)

(HIGH SCHOOL, continued from page 3)

foreign languages, science, and social sciences.

Barely one in five was satisfied with their training in art and music and only 17 percent had confidence in their vocational skills. Eight out of 10 said they came to college without good study habits.

The survey was conducted as a part of the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP), the largest on-going study of American higher education. The study represents the characteristics of a total student population of 1.67 million 1975 freshmen.

Copies of the report, "The American Freshmen: National Norms for Fall 1975," may be obtained from the CIRP, Graduate School of Education, UCLA, 405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, California, 90024, at a price of \$5.00.

YOUTH CONVENTIONS HELD

March and April were busy months for vocational youth groups. Holding annual conven-

tions were the Texas Associations of: Distributive Education Clubs of America, Future Homemakers of America, Vocational Industrial Clubs of America, Texas Association of Health Occupations Students, and the Vocational Office Opportunities Clubs of Texas.

VOOCT, a new club for office education students enrolled in the Coordinated Vocational-Academic Education program, held its first state convention. All the conferences were devoted to the professional, leadership, and social development of vocational students.

A highlight of many of the conventions were skill contests in which students competed with their peers in such categories as public speaking, bricklaying, office duplication master preparation, and sales demonstration. State winners in most of the contests advance to national competition.

The club members also conducted officer elections, held business meetings, listened to notable speakers, and participated in talent contests and dances at their annual meetings.

Will Reece, editor.

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