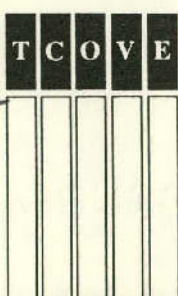


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At The Texas Education Agency

## Reorganization Reunites Vocational Education

The reorganization plan for the Texas Education Agency, unveiled by Commissioner of Education Lionel "Skip" Meno at the October State Board of Education meeting, consolidates vocational education program, funding, and compliance functions into one division. The plan — developed in response to a legislative mandate — takes effect January 1.

Vocational education — separated

in a 1985 reorganization — will comprise one of five divisions in an *Office of Instruction*. The other divisions are elementary education, middle school education, high school education, and gifted & talented education.

Robert Patterson, who heads up vocational programs under the outgoing organizational structure, will continue to administer programs under the new plan while also serving as the *Senior Director for Vocational* (See REORGANIZATION, Page 2)



Sylvia Talavera Blain

## State Board Appoints S. Blain to Council

Sylvia Talavera Blain, associate professor of cosmetology at Odessa College, was appointed in September to the 13-member Texas Council on Vocational Education. She was appointed by the State Board of Education, which was acting on a recommendation from Governor Ann Richards.

Blain, a bilingual (Spanish) instructor of cosmetology at the college since 1983, was appointed to a 3-year term, replacing Austin Community College executive Bert Marcom whose term expired. She is a member and past president of the Texas Postsecondary Cosmetology Educator's Association, and is a member of the Texas Junior College Teacher's Association.

In addition to teaching, Blain is involved in the recruitment and counseling of students as a member of the Odessa College Lower Income Recruiting Committee. A graduate of Odessa College with an associate of applied science degree, she is working toward a business management degree at the University of Texas - Permian Basin.

## Salons vs. Solons

The use of *salons* in a headline appearing in the last issue of *Newsline* prompted several calls indicating that we should have used *solons*.

The headline — *Salons Boost Vocational Budget, Bypass Governance Changes* — referred to actions by lawmakers during the special legislative session that ended August 13 in Austin. Governor Ann Richards called the session to address the state budget crisis.

Solons is the more appropriate and concise reference to legislators; however, *salons* is a way of referring to a fashionable assemblage of notables (e.g., statesmen) held at the home of a prominent person.

The special session, with its far reaching consequences, required actions based on statesmanship rather than political whims. Governor Richards — a prominent person — assembled a group of notables in Austin — the home of state government — amidst considerable pomp to perform as statesmen.

Granted, most decisions made by lawmakers were politically motivated; however, some statesmanlike qualities did shine through, if not in actions, at least in rhetoric. *Salons* rather than *solons* was used to lend a literary perspective — if not quip — to the historic proceedings of this past August.

## 5th Awards Program Deadline January 17

The nominations deadline for the fifth annual *Texas Vocational Education Awards Program* is January 17. Nomination packets were mailed to school districts and community/ technical colleges on October 1. Additional forms are available from the Texas Council on Vocational Education office.

Sponsored by the T/COVE and Vocational-Technical Education Development Foundation of Texas, with financial support from businesses and organizations, the awards program recognizes student excellence and exemplary partnerships between the public and private sectors. Nine awards will be presented in six categories:

- Outstanding Student
- Outstanding Disabled Student
- Special Achievement Student
- Vocational Alumni
- Business/Labor Involvement
- Exemplary Advisory Committee

Secondary and postsecondary awards will be presented in the Outstanding Student, Outstanding Disabled Student, and Special Achievement Student categories.

Both the winners and finalists, to be selected and announced in early February, will be invited to attend an awards banquet to be held March 28 at the Wyndham Southpark Hotel in Austin.

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# Meno Lays Out Ambitious Schedule of Key Issues

During the November meeting of the State Board of Education, Commissioner of Education Lionel "Skip" Meno laid out an ambitious proposed schedule of key issues to be addressed by the Board during 1992.

The schedule of key issues includes:

### January

- Presentation and Discussion of Proposed Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) Indicators and Procedures;
- Presentation and Discussion of Proposed Changes in Assessment System and Procedures;
- Presentation and Discussion of Revised Accreditation Procedure;
- Report on Revised Public Education Information Management System;
- Status Report on Implementation of Site-Based Decision Making;

•Review and Discussion of School Safety, Student Violence and Discipline Management and Planning.

### February

- Approval of Revised AEIS Indicators and Procedures;
- Approval of Revised Assessment System and Procedures;
- Approval of Revised Accreditation Procedure;
- Presentation and Discussion of Recommended Preparatory Programs;
- Presentation and Discussion of Revised Essential Elements Review Proc-



Skip Meno

ess;

- Review of School Finance Issues;
- Status Report on School Governance;
- Progress Report of Student Outcome Goals Task Force;
- Progress Report of High School Education Task Force;
- Report on Partnership Schools.

### March

- Approval of Recommended Preparatory Programs;
- Progress Report of Professional Development Task Force;

### May

- Review of the Subchapters of Chapter 75 (Curriculum), including High School Graduation Requirements;
  - Adoption of Student Outcome Goals for
- (See ISSUES, page 3)

## Agency Reorganization Reunites Vocational Education (Continued from page 1)

Education. Dan Bristow is slated to administer voc ed's funding and compliance as he has done in the past. Jim Johnson, who currently directs special programs planning and implementation, will be the *Coordinator of Instruction* beginning in January.

Prior to the 1985 reorganization, vocational education had its own department within the Texas Education Agency. In the reorganization, the department was dismantled

with programs being placed in a curriculum division. Funding and regulatory functions were transferred to a funding and compliance division. State legislation passed in 1985 transferred the administration of postsecondary vocational-technical programs to what is now the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

"The 1985 Agency restructure resulted in two directors, two assistant commission-

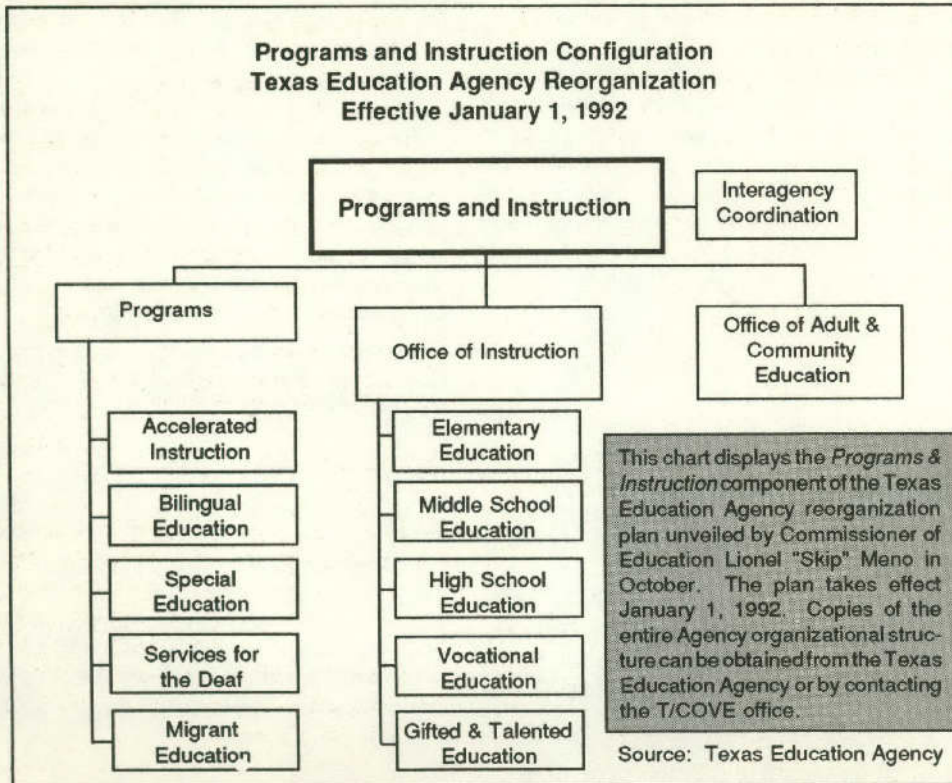
ers, and two deputy commissioners involved in making decisions about vocational education, resulting in a *who's in charge syndrome*," said Will Reece, executive director, Texas Council on Vocational Education. "The Meno plan will make it a lot easier for decisions to be made on a timely basis."

The instruction office will fall under the same executive deputy commissioner as programs and adult & community education. The *programs component* will encompass the divisions of accelerated instruction, bilingual education, special education, services for the deaf, and migrant education.

Jay Cummings, deputy commissioner over special programs under the current organization, will become the *Executive Deputy Commissioner for Programs & Instruction* under the new plan. Cummings will also have responsibility for interagency coordination, to include the Quality Work Force Planning System (e.g., linking vocational education and the Job Training Partnership Act). Mark Butler will continue as the key daily contact for quality work force planning.

Madeleine Manigold, who currently oversees special programs funding and compliance as an assistant commissioner, will be *Associate Commissioner for Programs* under the new plan.

The overall restructure of the TEA will result in two fewer deputy commissioners and four assistant commissioners. The Agency will see an immediate reduction of its work force by 87 positions — from 1,266 to 1,179 — with most of these positions transferred to the education service centers.



## Council Identifies Post-High School Performance Criteria

The Texas Council on Vocational Education — at the request of the State Board of Education — has identified criteria to measure the performance of high school graduates in the workplace.

The State Board is in the process of implementing an Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS), which will serve as a report card on Texas public schools. One of the indicators to be used in the system deals with workplace performance.

In a report submitted to the Board in November, the Council recommends that the AEIS encompass not only workplace performance, but also further education. Entitled, *Demanding Excellence, Rewarding Quality*, the report will be discussed by the Board at its January meeting.

The Council groups post-high school performance criteria into *educational outcomes* (e.g., % of students completing a certificate program or associate, B.A. or B.S. degree within five years of high school graduation) and *labor market outcomes* (e.g., % of students employed in priority or target occupations one year and then five years after high school graduation). The report lists several criteria under each heading.

Also included in the report are *wish lists* of competencies that postsecondary educators and employers desire of high school graduates. The lists are very similar. Contact the Council office for a copy of the report.

### Key Issues

(Continued from page 2)

#### Elementary and Secondary Education;

- Presentation of High School Education Task Force Policy Recommendation;
- State Board Legislative Hearing.

June

#### Adoption of High School Education Policy;

- Report on Revised Accreditation Procedure Pilots;
- Presentation and Discussion of School Finance Recommendations.

July

- Presentation of Professional Development Task Force Policy Recommendation;
- Approval of School Finance Recommendations;
- Discussion of State Board Legislative Program.

September

- Approval of Professional Development Policy Statement;
- Approval of Board Legislative Program.

## News Briefs

### Coordinating Board Approves TSTC Initiatives

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board — at its October 24-25 meeting in Austin — granted Texas State Technical College approval to establish off-campus programs in Marshall and Brownwood. The Legislature authorized and appropriated funds in 1991 for both initiatives. The cities of Marshall and Brownwood will provide facilities to house the TSTC programs. Approval of the Marshall extension center hinged on several TSTC commitments, including a focus on new and emerging technologies rather than duplicating academic or technical courses offered by community colleges in the area. The Brownwood initiative involves a cooperative agreement with Ranger Junior College. TSTC will offer seven technical programs and Ranger — working with Howard Payne University — will provide supporting general academic courses. Technical programs will be offered in: Information Management, Electronics, Computer Science, Drafting and Design, Machining, Welding, and Industrial Maintenance Mechanics.

### Technical Degree Approval Standards Adopted

New criteria and standards that public colleges must meet in seeking approval to offer associate of applied science technical program degrees were adopted by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board at its quarterly meeting in October. The criteria and standards — which address successful student outcomes, labor market demand assessments, correction of on-site evaluation deficiencies, and compliance with federal vocational education special populations access requirements — were adopted to ensure that any new requests for technical degree programs do not jeopardize the quality of ongoing programs.

### DCCCD Offers Educational Guarantees

The Dallas County Community College District — beginning in 1992 — will offer written educational guarantees to students in both academic transfer and technical programs. Additional courses and/or training will be provided *tuition free* to academic transfer students who have credits rejected by senior institutions or to technical and career program students who employers find to be deficient in job skills.

### State Board Acts on Vocational Issues

The State Board of Education — at its November 7-9 meeting in Austin — acted on or discussed several issues impacting vocational education, including: (1) approved the repeal of a rule requiring sunset reviews of programs in lieu of legislation passed this year requiring the quality and effectiveness of vocational education to be considered as a part of the same accreditation process that impacts academic programs; (2) approved a rule change requiring local advisory councils for vocational education to have at least two members that are parents, including at least one parent of a student who is a member of a special population group; (3) approved a new rule allowing private industry councils established under the Job Training Partnership Act to serve as fiscal agents for Quality Work Force Planning Committees (i.e., regional planning); and (4) agreed to review and discuss a preliminary statewide List of Priority Occupations in January, with final approval coming in March.

### State Board to Form Several Task Forces

At its November meeting in Austin, the State Board of Education discussed the formation of several task forces to assist the Board in developing policy statements during 1992 on student outcome goals, professional preparation and development, and high school education. The Board also discussed assigning its Committee on Students, as a part of its regular committee agenda, the task of defining the State Board of Education's responsibility for vocational education, to include the development of a multi-agency Memorandum of Understanding concerning coordination of vocational education, adult education, job training, and employment services.

## Council's Executive Director, Will Reece Stepping Down After Eight Years At Helm

Will Reece, executive director of the Texas Council on Vocational Education since 1983, has announced his resignation, effective no later than June 1.

The announcement came at the Council's September meeting. Reece, 46, said "it is merely time to move on and do something else in life. I have enjoyed the people, challenges, and friendships."

He came to the Council staff in 1972 with a background in broadcast and print journalism. His nearly 20-year stint in Austin includes 17 years in different capacities with the Council and three years in the dual role of executive director of the Texas Vocational Technical Association and the Texas Vocational Consortium.

Council Chair Marcus Hill, a Fort Worth businessman, heads a search committee to find a new executive director. "We will begin formally advertising the position within the



Will Reece

next few months," said Hill. "Interested individuals are certainly welcome to make preliminary inquiries at this time."

"Vocational education has been on a political roller coaster the past eight years, experiencing both stinging defeats and euphoric victories," said Reece. "I had this job just 26 days in 1983 when H. Ross Perot — chairing the Select Committee on Public Education to identify education reforms — came to the Council office, challenging voc ed's relevancy, quality, and effectiveness."

"Perot opened the flood gates of criticism that have stalked and shadowed vocational education at the state and local levels. *This Council has played a key leadership role in identifying and driving changes that are making vocational education a dynamic partner in the state's economic development initiatives.*" said Reece. "It must continue an advocacy role. Vocational education will survive its critics because it has great teachers, excellent administrators, concerned counselors, strong advisory committees, and successful graduates."

## Voc Ed Council Prison Bound

"As a part of its February 20-21 meeting in Huntsville, the Texas Council on Vocational Education will tour the Texas Department of Corrections' Windham Independent School District education programs," said Marcus Hill, Fort Worth, chair of the Council. The federal *Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act of 1990* emphasizes serving incarcerated individuals. "We will look at the full scope of academic and vocational programs, including guidance and assessment initiatives," said Hill. The tour will transpire on Thursday, February 20, with the Council's regular business meeting slated for the following day.



Marcus Hill  
Prison Bound

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

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