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UPDATE

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February 1989

Second Annual Texas Vocational Education Awards Banquet

AWARDS PROGRAM HONORS 1989 AWARD WINNERS & FINALISTS

The "gifted" and the "average"; the "who's who" and the "potential dropout"; those who could see and those who experience a world of darkness, each sharing the common bond of achieving one's potential, were honored at the Second Annual Texas Vocational Education Awards Banquet by some 220 attendees, February 2, at the Hyatt Regency in Austin.

The awards program, coordinated by the Texas Council on Vocational Education, recognizes the achievements of high school and community college vocational students as well as exemplary private sector partnerships with education, says Will Reece, the Council's Executive Director.

"We're acknowledging excellence—derived through personal dedication and sacrifices, maximum utilization of strengths, and rising above physical and learning disabilities—in the quest to turn dreams and ambitions into reality," says Reece. Seven winners and 15 finalists in four award categories were honored at the banquet, with media personality Cactus Pryor serving as the Master of Ceremonies.

Nominations were solicited from all school districts and community colleges in Texas. The award categories are: "Outstanding Student," "Outstanding Special Populations Student," "Exemplary Business/Labor Involvement," and "Exemplary Vocational Advisory Committee." Each of the student award categories has a secondary and postsecondary division. (The 1989 winners and finalists are noted on page 2.)

The 1989 Awards program was sponsored in part by the Vocational-Technical Education Development Foundation of Texas with additional grants provided by: ALCOA-Rockdale; GTE-Southwest; the Texas AFL-CIO; the Texas Building and Construction Trades Council; and the United Services Automobile Association (USAA). Additional contributions, for the program, were provided by the Trinity Valley Community College Occupational Education Advisory Committees and by individual vocational education teachers in Texas. ### (Editors Note: A more complete report on the Awards Banquet will be contained in the next edition of the UPDATE.)

McClure Tapped By Bush For White House Position

Fred McClure, a former member of the Texas Council on Vocational Education, has been named by President George Bush as his chief liaison with Congress.

Immediately prior to his appointment in the Bush White House, McClure was Vice President for Governmental Affairs in the Washington office of Texas Air Corporation. In his new position, McClure will be responsible for overseeing a team of lobbyists who will push the president's domestic and foreign policy initiatives with Congress.

A former National Secretary and Texas State President of the Future Farmers of America, McClure was appointed by former Governor Dolph Briscoe to the Texas Council.

Receiving his B.S. in Agricultural Economics from Texas A&M University in 1976, where he served as Student Body President, McClure was appointed a White House Intern and served as state

office director for former Senator John Tower. Upon graduation from the Baylor University School of Law in 1981, McClure joined the Houston law firm of Reynolds, Allen, and Cook. McClure rejoined Senator Tower's staff as Legislative Director and Legal Counsel from which he joined the Justice Department as an Associate Deputy Attorney General. In 1984, McClure joined the Reagan Administration as Special Assistant to the President.



Fred McClure

As a keynote speaker at the Texas Vocational Education Awards Banquet in 1988, McClure noted that if the only measure of success of a vocational program is the number of completers at work in the area of their training, then he, as a product of vocational education yet not working in the area of his training, would be deemed to have been failed by the program.

McClure stressed the need for a reassessment of such criteria as the sole measure of program worth. ###

Starts Organizing

ELECTED STATE BOARD MEMBERS SWORN IN

The return to an elected State Board of Education was completed by the swearing in of the newly elected board members by Secretary of State Jack Rains on January 9, 1989, in Austin.

Monte Hasie, Lubbock, had been appointed to a two-year term as Chairman by Governor Bill Clements prior to the swearing in ceremony. During their January 10 meeting, the Board elected Carolyn Crawford, Beaumont, Vice Chair; and Mary Helen Berlanga, Corpus Christi, Secretary, to complete the slate of officers of the Board.

Chairman Hasie, in accordance with existing Board rules, appointed the chairs and membership of the existing standing committees of the Board prior to the first Board meeting. The Board met as committees on January 10 under the leadership of the chairs which Hasie had appointed. The full meeting of the Board on January 11 voted to amend the rules of the Board to reflect: five standing committees rather than the previous Board's four; that the Board's officers make committee assignments based on members preferences; that each committee be comprised of 4-6 members and elect its own chair from among its members; and, that nothing in the rules shall abridge the right of any member to have an item placed on the agenda for committee consideration. These amendments were submitted to the Board by Bob Aikin (D-Commerce). Upon the approval of the amendments, Chairman Hasie requested that each member of the Board submit to him their committee preference so that the committee assignments could be finalized prior to adjournment. The Chairs of the committees were selected during the February meeting (noted in box). Also during the January meeting the newly elected members drew lots for their term of office.

Prior to adjourning the January meeting, Chairman Hasie outlined his three major priorities: (1) enhancing local control; (2) improving vocational education; and (3) improving the teaching profession. The Board agreed, at Hasie's request, to make a strong statement to the Legislature that it not legislate mandates unless it is prepared to pay for them. ###

State Board of Education

MEMBER	DISTRICT #	TERM
Monte Hasie (R-Lubbock) Chairman	15	4 yrs
Carolyn Crawford (D-Beaumont) Vice Chairman	7	2 yrs
Mary Helen Berlanga (D-Corpus Christi) Secretary	2	2 yrs
Bob Aikin (D-Commerce)	9	2 yrs
Ray Alexander (D-Houston)	4	4 yrs
Emmett J. Conrad (D-Dallas)	13	4 yrs
Robert Cummings (R-Houston)	6	2 yrs
Will Davis (D-Austin)	10	2 yrs
William Hudson (D-Wichita Falls)	14	4 yrs
Geraldine Miller (R-Dallas)	12	4 yrs
Jane Nelson (R-Lewisville)	11	2 yrs
Rene Nunez (D-El Paso)	1	4 yrs
Mary Perkins (D-Lufkin)	8	4 yrs
John Shields (R-San Antonio)	5	2 yrs
Esteban Sosa (D-San Antonio)	3	4 yrs

Committee on Students:	Miller (Chair), Alexander, Berlanga, Hasie, Nelson, Perkins
Committee on Personnel:	Crawford (Chair), Conrad, Nunez, Shields
Committee on Finance & Programs:	Davis (Chair), Aikin, Cummings, Hudson, Sosa
Committee on Permanent School Fund:	Sosa (Chair), Aikin, Hasie, Hudson, Miller, Nunez
Committee on Long-Range Planning:	Conrad (Chair), Cummings, Davis, Nelson, Perkins, Shields

1988-89 Award Recipients

Outstanding Student

Secondary
Susan M'Liss Fick - Bellville High School

Postsecondary
Peggy Castilow-Haskins - Lee College

Finalists
Emily Suzanne Fulton - Denton High School
Wendy M. Hudson - Memorial High School (S.B.I.S.D.)
Margaret Martinez - Barbara Jordan High School (H.I.S.D.)

Finalists
Gracie Chapa - Bee County College
Mary Patricia Slape - Howard College
Mary Wisnoski - San Jacinto College - South

Outstanding Special Populations Student

Secondary (Co-Winners)
Priscilla Freeman - Career Center (Beaumont I.S.D.)
Lena Trammer - Barbara Jordan High School (H.I.S.D.)

Postsecondary
Christine Rodriguez - Austin Community College

Finalists
James Edward Hanson - Tyler Junior College
Lester Moffett - Edmund J. Kahn Training Center
Connie S. Powers - San Antonio College

Exemplary Business/Labor Involvement

General Motors Training Center - Dallas

Finalists
Auto Zone, Inc. - San Antonio
Dow Chemical, Texas Operations - Freeport
Fairchild Aircraft Corporation - San Antonio

Exemplary Vocational Education Advisory Committee

Corrosion Technology Advisory Committee - Kilgore College

Finalists
Business Advisory Council - El Centro College
Marketing Education Advisory Committee - Houston I.S.D.
Advisory Board for Occupational/Technical Education - Spring Branch I.S.D.

Symposium Targets Workforce Through Regional Planning

Dr. Lauro Cavazos, U.S. Secretary of Education and keynote speaker at a public policy symposium held at the LBJ School of Public Affairs, stressed the provision of vocational and technical programs that offer an academic education in an applied setting. Such programs, he stated, would supply secondary and post-secondary students with the basic tools for life-long learning.

The symposium, held November 16, 1988, and entitled "Developing A Skilled And Educated Workforce Through Regional Planning," focused on strategies which would involve educators and the business community in training the Texas workforce. The symposium was jointly sponsored by the Texas Education Agency; Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Texas Department of Commerce, Texas Council on Vocational Education, and the University of Texas LBJ School of Public Affairs.

Industry must communicate to secondary and post-secondary schools the skills that are needed to function in the workplace; and through collaboration and coordination, education must change to reflect these necessary skills, added Cavazos. In the future, jobs on average will demand more education and training. Management in U.S. business is realizing that workers must have input into the production of goods and services for industries to stay competitive. According to Cavazos, workers must also have good communication skills - second only to job knowledge in needed skills.

Yet, the gap between the intellectual skills needed in the workplace and the available skills of workers continues to widen. On achievement tests, U.S. students rank near the bottom of all industrial countries. And, Blacks and Hispanics rank behind Anglos in this country in all subject areas. Disadvantaged students have been bypassed by sweeping reforms, noted Cavazos. By the year 2000, the majority of students in public schools in Texas will be Blacks and Hispanics. If the state is to educate a productive workforce, it must focus attention on the special needs of these populations - namely, dropout and illiteracy rates.

Cavazos commented that states must attract more minority teachers, who can serve as role models for students. He urged schools to provide at-risk students with options for the future. Apprenticeship and transition programs are needed to keep students in school. Two-year associate degrees, including vocational and technical programs, after high school can secure the training people need for the workplace. According to Cavazos, 60 percent of the workforce could be adequately trained for jobs by vocational and technical programs.

As Secretary of Education, Cavazos pledged to address the minority and Anglo dropout problem, which he viewed as a loss of human potential. This loss hinders the U.S. competitive position in the international marketplace and represents a defeat to humankind. To solve the U.S. deficit in education, Cavazos will spend time raising awareness of the problem, convincing students that

someone cares about them, and raising the expectations in students themselves.

After Cavazos' speech, the symposium continued with panel discussions on what should be done in Texas to implement regional planning. Addressing the concept of regional planning, Nancy Speck, a member of the Texas Strategic Economic Policy Commission, noted some of the Commission's recommendations for priority actions in the upcoming legislative session. These included attention on the adult literacy and dropout problem, and more coordination between public and private sectors encompassing state agencies and training institutions, and between voc-tech programs and the workforce. The Commission urged more involvement by all facets of regional planning and the establishment of more formal regional systems. Additionally, it recommended aggressive implementation of the Master Plan for Vocational Education.

Larry Jenkins, Chairperson for the Governor's Task Force on Vocational Education, echoed this last recommendation. He stated that the Master Plan was well-conceived, but educators needed help implementing it. Help can be obtained through integrated planning at the state, regional and local levels.

The Master Plan demands that a bridge be developed between vocational education and academic education, commented Maria Elena A. Flood, Chairperson for the Finance and Programs Committee of the State Board of Education. She added that the Master Plan is a crucial document, which can be supported by regional planning. Regional planning proposes to provide economic development, link training with the skills that are needed in the workplace, reduce

unnecessary duplication of training from different entities in a region, and increase efficiency of training.

In accordance with the Master Plan for Vocational Education, three broad-based regional planning projects began their planning activities in December 1987. The projects, sponsored by the Texas Department of Commerce, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and the Texas Education Agency and operating through June 30, 1989, are being conducted in three separate labor market areas of the state. The location of the projects include the Upper Rio Grande area, the San Antonio area, and the North East Texas area. A fourth project, which did not receive funding from the three state agencies, is being conducted by Interlink, a group of public and private sector entities, for the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area.

As stated in a status report on the projects, the sponsoring agencies learned that "Regional planning committees must be representative of a wide spectrum of public and private interests, must be given adequate time to learn their roles and to be perceived

**Dr. Lauro Cavazos,
U.S. Secretary of Education:**

Industry must communicate to secondary and post-secondary schools the skills that are needed to function in the workplace; and through collaboration and coordination, education must change to reflect these necessary skills.

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Symposium

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as legitimate within their region, and must be given proper staff support to assume leadership in the planning process." They also confirmed that occupational education and training programs should be based upon current and projected job openings in the labor market, and that training must provide workers with necessary skills required for performance in those occupations.

According to Crandall Young, Deputy Executive Director of Region XIX Education Service Center in El Paso, an affiliate of the Upper Rio Grande Area Project, schools are very supportive of regional planning. But, to make regional planning a viable solution to economic development, it must address three critical issues: (1) involvement - regional corporations must become involved in the projects; (2) authorization - the projects must be authorized by the state and set up to operate; and, (3) financing - the money for developing and implementing regional planning must be appropriated, in an atmosphere of competing interests and budgetary restraints within the state. ###

"Economic Impact of Vocational Education in Texas"
is now available to the public by contacting the T/COVE office

PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN INITIATED

T/COVE is participating through the National Association of State Councils on Vocational Education (NASCOVE) in a national publicity effort on behalf of vocational education.

NASCOVE is a member of a coalition of seven organizations with an interest in elevating the stature of vocational education through a "National Awareness Campaign" to improve the public image of vocational education.

The effort is being spearheaded by the National Council on Vocational Education, in cooperation with the American Vocational Association (AVA), Partners for American Vocational Education (PAVE), the National Association of State Directors of Vocational Education, the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges, the National Coordinating Council for Vocational Student Organizations, and NASCOVE.

The centerpiece of the first phase of the campaign involves plans to have President Bush present the first annual "American Dream Awards" to the heads of several of America's largest corporations who have benefited from a background on vocational

education at a White House ceremony later this year. The event would be used to kick-off the national awareness campaign. According to the proposed plan, a dozen or so Americans with either secondary or postsecondary roots in vocational education who have achieved significant career success will be honored annually.

By recognizing outstanding corporate leaders at the national level, the coalition hopes to use their success stories to secure a broader awareness for vocational/technical education.

In the proposed second phase of the project, corporate leaders from top companies will be asked to make a financial contribution to a broader advertising campaign using the voluntary professional services of the Advertising Council. ###

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* Known under state law as The Advisory Council for Technical-Vocational Education in Texas