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THE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN TEXAS

Governor's Budget Slashes Voc Ed

Governor Clements' budget recommendations for the 1988-89 biennium outline a \$125 million or 25% cut in vocational education funding at the secondary level and a \$6.6 million reduction at the postsecondary level. He pledged that education will continue to receive 51% of the total budget; however, dollars within the total education budget will be reallocated.

In the Governor's Executive Policy Budget, Governor Clements explained why he was requesting a reduction in the secondary vocational education allotment.

According to the Governor, "Vocational education is an essential element in the State's Foundation Program, and it is also vital to the development of a diverse and skilled work force. However, various studies and the opinions of educational experts indicate that the current vocational education program is unnecessarily rigid and not as streamlined or focused as it should be.

I agree with the State Board of Education's legislative proposal to revise the funding weights for individual areas within the vocational education program to allow greater emphasis on relevant job training programs tailored to the modern Texas economy. In revising the weights, some programs will be de-emphasized; others will receive more than their current rates. I believe that this new flexibility will allow the State to reduce overall funding to vocational education since our current funding is heavily influenced by programs whose funding weights can be reduced without necessarily reducing their effectiveness.

Rave Reviews of Principles of Technology

Principles of Technology, currently being piloted at Leander ISD, is getting rave reviews from the administrators, teachers, and students.

The Leander ISD program was recently spotlighted at the Vocational Administrators Conference sponsored by the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

Leander ISD received a \$35,000 grant from the Agency to pilot the program. The course was launched in September with 22 students participating. Plans for next year include expanding the program to several sections and adding a Principles of Technology II course.

Principles of Technology teacher Mark Kincaid has been a driving force in the success of the program, according to Linda Hanson, Assistant to the Superintendent and Project Director. A former vocational agriculture teacher, Kincaid states, "Principles of Technology is the finest new course that has been brought into a school since I have been teaching vocational education. The students are extremely enthusiastic about the course. Both the students and I are looking forward to the second year of Principles of Technology."

Ms. Hanson enthusiastically explained, "This course is a first step in meeting the needs of the neglected majority. These are the students that choose not to go into a four-year college program, yet need skills to compete in a technological society."

The students enrolled in the program also applauded the results. Student Elaine Vonstein stated, "Before taking Principles of Technology I thought I would be an accountant, but now I realize there are many opportunities in technical fields that I have previously not considered."

ACTIVE Vice Chairman George Matott is a strong advocate of the program and serves on the Leander Local Advisory Committee of the program. Matott states, "Our Council has worked diligently to make Principles of Technology available to the students of Texas. I strongly commend the efforts of Leander ISD in making the program a success."

Austin ISD began a pilot program in January.

Further, I will appoint a task force to make a comprehensive study of vocational education in the State. The committee will begin work during the 70th Legislature and hopefully will complete its work in time to help guide the distribution of 1988-89 funding. It will focus on streamlining the types of programs and institutions providing vocational education programs -- public education, junior colleges, extension services, and the senior colleges. The goal will be to make vocational education in the State more cost-effective and to enhance its role in contributing to the State's economic development."

In the section of the budget dealing with higher education, Governor Clements explained the recommended \$6.6 million cut at the postsecondary level can be saved by eliminating duplication of programs which would result in consolidation of some campuses.

According to the Governor, "In several of the cities where Texas State Technical Institute campuses are located, junior colleges also offer vocational-technical programs. This duplication should be eliminated and all (BUDGET, Continued on Page 2)

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vocational training consolidated at the TSTI campuses. I believe approximately \$6.6 million can be saved from these consolidations.

This proposal is only a first step in reworking the State's vocational education system. I will soon appoint a task force to study vocational education in the State. It will focus on streamlining and consolidating programs where possible. The task force will review the four types of institutions and programs providing vocational education -- public schools, junior and senior colleges, and the extension services. My goal is to make the State's vocational program a keystone of our economic development efforts." The following are recommended appropriations for public education:

**Recommended Appropriations for Public Education
(Millions of Dollars)**

Funding at 1987 Biennial Level	\$11,471.9
Policy Changes Affecting Funding	
1. Projected Enrollment Growth	+ 300.0
2. Changes in Teacher Evaluation and Compensation	- 165.3
3. Eliminate State Funding for Full-Day Kindergarten for Non-Compensatory Students	- 80.0
4. Reduce Vocational Education Allotment	- 125.0
5. Continue Elimination of State Funding for Teacher Sick Leave	- 10.5
6. Allow the Selective Extension of the Textbook Cycle (Savings)	- 10.0
7. Adjust Foundation Program Payments for Bank Franchise Tax Receipts	- 66.2
8. Teacher Retirement System Changes	- 45.6
9. Administrative Cost Savings	- 4.0
Recommended Appropriations for Public Education	\$11,265.3

Following are the recommended appropriations for higher education:

**Recommended Appropriations for Higher Education
(Millions of Dollars)**

Funding at 1987 Biennial Level	\$ 4,471.5
Policy Changes Affecting Funding	
1. Research and Development Funding	+ 140.2
2. Eliminate Funding of Special Items	- 49.2
3. Eliminate Duplication in Vocational Education Programs	- 6.6
4. Eliminate General Revenue Funding for University System Offices	- 3.0
5. Eliminate Contingency for Tuition Shortfalls	- 35.0
6. Optional Retirement System Changes	- 35.8
7. Savings from Correcting Inefficiencies Found in the Coopers & Lybrand Review	- 3.0
8. Savings from Adoption of a Texas Charter	N/A
Recommended Appropriations for Higher Education	\$ 4,479.1

The Legislature is currently reviewing the Governor's budget.

Chairman Boren Defends Voc Ed

EDITOR'S NOTE: In a recent editorial in the Dallas Morning News entitled "The looming school battle," questions were raised on the relevancy and need of vocational education at the secondary level. In response to these questions, Advisory Council Chairman Gary Boren wrote a letter explaining the changes that are currently underway in voc ed to improve the system. Mr. Boren's letter, which follows, appeared in the Dallas Morning News on February 28, 1987.

"In Rena Pederson's recent editorial page article on vocational education, 'The looming school battle,' Ms. Pederson commented that 'the days of the old-fashioned shop instructor may be numbered.' These days are indeed numbered.

Governor Bill Clements' pledge to 'go all out' to assure that a multi-billion dollar super atom smasher is located in Texas under-

scores the impact of science and technology on current and future work force requirements. Literacy and skill levels continue to rise far beyond the mere ability to read and write, to make lamps and straighten fenders.

Unfortunately, in our quest for economic progress and global competitiveness, we see the need for scientists and engineers but lose sight of the importance of upgrading training for technicians and mechanics, craftsmen and entrepreneurs.

Vocational education is being perceived as a relic from the past rather than as an integral link to the future. Thus, the 'looming school battle' shapes up as a drive to minimize vocational education vs. recognizing and supporting reforms underway to make it a relevant partner with academics.

For the past two years, our Council, the State Board of Education, the College and University Coordinating Board, and other groups have wrestled status quo and turf

(CHANGES, Continued on Page 3)

Coordinating Board Names Assistant Commissioner

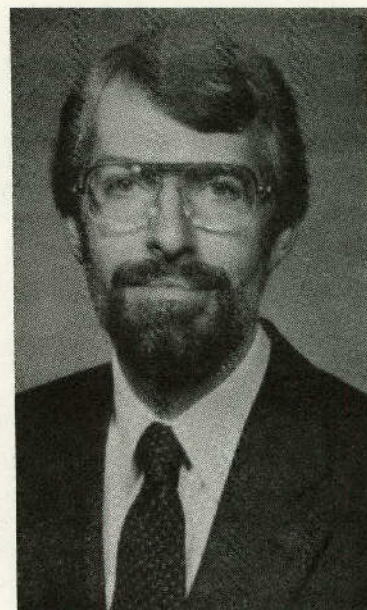
Dale F. Campbell has been selected as the new Assistant Commissioner for Community Colleges and Technical Institutes with the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System. Dr. Campbell began his new job in February. He will replace Dr. Nellie Thorogood who has accepted the presidency of North Harris County Community College.

As the state-level executive officer, Dr. Campbell is responsible for the direction of state coordination, planning, approvals, and accountability activities for the institutions.

Dr. Campbell was previously Coordinator, Community College Education Program, North Carolina State University and Editor of the Community College Review. He also served as Dean of Instruction for Vernon Regional Junior College in Wichita Falls.

He also served as president of both the state and national associations primarily concerned with postsecondary occupational education: Texas Technical Society and the National Council for Occupational Education of the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges.

Dr. Campbell holds a Ph.D. in educational administration from the University of Texas at Austin's community college leadership program and was recently honored as the recipient of the "Community College Intraprizer of the Year Award," presented at the National Council for Resource Development Convention in Washington, D.C.



(CHANGES, Continued from Page 2)

forces to develop a Master Plan for Vocational Education in Texas, required as part of H.B. 72 passed by the Legislature in 1984.

The Master Plan, approved in January, ties vocational education to economic development, ensuring that courses will reinforce - not supplant - academic excellence, while addressing priority labor market skill requirements on a regional basis.

The vocational curriculum will be revamped in grades 7-12. All industrial arts courses will be eliminated, with the new emphasis on technology education. Traditional agriculture and home economics courses will be dropped, to be replaced by new courses in these areas that are slanted toward the science and technology applications impacting the industries they serve.

Job specific training will be restricted to grades 11-12, with postsecondary school and the private sector handling most specialized instruction. Cluster courses to be offered in grades 10-12, will stress skills generic to several occupations within a broad occupational heading, thereby enhancing a student's adaptability and transferability in the workplace.

Our Council is a bipartisan coalition of business and education people helping to make vocational education responsive in a timely and relevant manner to the current and future needs of Texas.

Thirty percent of our youth drop out of school short of high school graduation. Of those who graduate, most enter the labor market within two years after high school. Sixty percent of new jobs are generated by small businesses that have neither the resources nor time to adequately train new

employees.

Texans need academic preparation - first and foremost - but for many jobs they also require vocational and technical skills. The Master Plan addresses training opportunities in our high schools, community colleges and technical institutes, recognizing that no one level of education nor the private sector can do it alone.

The call for reform of vocational education is being addressed in a dramatic and innovative manner. If there still are critics, then we take our case to the people."

Dates to Remember

- March 5-7, 1987 -- Distributive Education Clubs of America, Corpus Christi
- April 2-4, 1987 -- Vocational Opportunity Clubs of Texas, Corpus Christi
- April 5-7, 1987 -- Office Education Association, Houston
- April 9-11, 1987 -- Vocational Opportunities Career Clubs of Texas, Corpus Christi
- April 10-11, 1987 -- Future Homemakers of America, San Antonio
- April 30 - May 2, 1987 -- Vocational Industrial Clubs of Texas, Fort Worth
- July 15-17, 1987 -- Future Farmers of America, Fort Worth
- July 29-31, 1987 -- Vocational Administrators and Supervisors Professional Improvement Conference, Austin
- August 3, 1987 -- Vocational Guidance Programs New Personnel Orientation, Austin
- August 3-6, 1987 -- Vocational Guidance Program Professional Improvement Conference, Austin

Equity Conference Labeled Success

Austin was the site of the Second Annual Equity Conference: A State Conference for Sex Bias/Sex Stereotyping and Single Parent/Homemaker Program Implementors. The conference, held February 12-13, utilized secondary and postsecondary educators in focusing on equity concerns.

According to Christine Smart, Equal Access Coordinator of the Texas Education Agency and conference coordinator, "The second annual equity conference had proven that secondary and postsecondary people can work successfully together for a common objective."

The keynote speaker of the conference, Helen W. Milliken, took center stage of the conference with her comments entitled "When Does the Second Shoe Fall?" Ms. Milliken, the wife of the former Governor of Michigan, represented Women's Programs in Michigan. Her comments focused on teenage pregnancy.

"In 1982, there were 50,585 Texas births to girls between 10 and 19. The births to girls age 14 and younger in 1984 numbered 1,088. Texas ranks third nationally in adolescent pregnancy with 137 teen pregnancies per 1,000 teen girls."

In addition to the teenage pregnancy problem, the conference addressed a myriad of other equity concerns.

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