

700.6  
Ac 88  
8/3

# ACTIVE news

The Advisory Council For Technical-Vocational Education In Texas



Dorothy R. Robinson, Chairman  
Box 1886 Austin, Texas 78767 512/475-2046

Alton D. Ice, Executive Director

Vol. VIII, Number 3, April 1977

## Conference Attendees Urge Flexibility, Priorities

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following article summarizes some of the major points made during workshops or through an evaluation form at the February 15-16th Governor's Conference on Technical-Vocational Education, held in Austin. The March issue of the ACTIVE News highlighted major points made in keynote addresses delivered at the conference.

Words like priority, flexibility, coordination, cooperation, communication and accountability were used frequently during the Governor's Conference to accent concerns and ideas expressed by many of the nearly 1,200 Texas citizens who came to Austin.

Through a series of workshops and a "comments section" on an evaluation form, conference attendees were quite vocal in making known their thoughts on not only vocational education, but public education in general.

### Work Ethic Emphasized by Non-Educators

The employability of public school graduates, the work ethic, and the relationship of the schools and work community were key concerns among non-educators attending the conference.

One industry representative said "all children graduating from high school should have an employable skill. I am disturbed that this is presently not the case."

Another industry representative stressed that "the greatest good we could do for our youth and the State would come from real progress in developing the work ethic so that our youth grow up willing and anxious to work, with good attitudes toward work and business."

To help young people relate to the productive factors of society and to develop skills and attitudes necessary to become useful and productive citizens, employers emphasized that greater exposure to the work world is needed in the elementary grades, and more emphasis needs to be placed on vocational education, especially at the lower grade levels.

Employers were concerned that the relationship between the schools and work community, in general, is not what it can be. One industry representative said "most industry people want to help educators, but they lack the direction to do so."

The importance of advisory committees was stressed, especially "in helping the schools identify the needs of the community and in structuring programs to help serve the community's needs."

Several non-educators emphasized that it is important that advisory committees work with the schools to

ensure that vocational education provides students with broad experiences.

It was also noted that the "expertise and influence of advisory committees should be used in providing or establishing a better understanding in the community of what voc-ed is and the public that it serves."

### Voc-Ed Awareness Stressed by Students

The visibility of voc-ed programs, the blending of academic and voc-ed experiences, and job placement services were key concerns among students attending the conference.

Several students stressed that parents, counselors, and students need to be better informed of secondary as well as post-high school vocational program opportunities.

One student said "counselors are often not prepared to give information on careers. They do testing and give information on colleges, but they don't know about a lot of different careers or about vocational education."

It was noted by several students that vocational teachers need to be used in the counseling process, and that peer counseling is also a good way to reach students.

Several students stressed a need for communication between students in voc-ed and academic programs to foster an awareness of the need for both voc-ed and academic programs in a student's preparation for making a living and functioning in society.

The relevancy of education was a concern of students. One student said, "very broad career awareness activities should be provided at a very early point in the educational life of stu-

(See STUDENTS, page 2)



# Ice, Patterson Seeking National Voc-Ed Offices

During April, members of the American Vocational Association will be receiving a ballot containing the names of candidates for AVA offices. The ballot must be marked and returned to the AVA by May 10th.

Two Texans are seeking AVA offices. ACTVE Executive Director Alton Ice is running for AVA president-elect. Bob Patterson, state director for Trade and Industrial Education with the Texas Education Agency, is vying for the vice-presidency of AVA's T & I Division.

The April issue of the American Vocational Journal contains biographical sketches on all candidates for AVA offices. The candidates were nominated at the 70th Annual AVA Convention, held last December in Houston. The winners will take office

July 1.

Gene Bottoms, of the Georgia State Department of Education, is presently serving as AVA president. He will serve

in that post until July 1 at which time the current President-Elect Gordon Swanson, of the University of Minnesota, will take over as president.



**Alton Ice**  
running for president-elect



**Bob Patterson**  
seeking T & I vice-presidency

(STUDENT VIEWPOINTS, continued from page 1)

dents in order that some relevancy can be obtained for the educational process that young people are required to progress through."

To decrease spiraling unemployment, especially among young people, one student stressed that "the schools and work community should work more closely in the placement of students after the completion of programs."

The "teacher" was also a concern of students attending the conference. It was noted that "students will produce what is demanded of them, but what the teachers have to offer makes a big difference."

## **Funding, Flexibility Key Educator Concerns**

The funding and administration of vocational education, coordination and communication among schools and programs, identifying citizen needs, program accountability, data and information systems, and the delivery of voc-ed services were some of the key concerns among educators attending the conference.

A universal feeling among educators is that the manner in which voc-ed is presently funded should be changed. Because voc-ed and academic programs

differ in cost factors, it was felt that they should not be funded in the same manner.

Local officials were vocal in stressing that the state should grant local schools greater flexibility in constructing and equipping facilities, and also in the use of funds allocated for instructional materials. It was felt that each community is "unique," and a set of standards or guidelines won't fit all communities.

Several educators emphasized a need for stronger communication and coordination between secondary and post-secondary schools, between voc-ed and manpower programs, and the community to reduce duplication of efforts and to share resources and facilities to meet needs that could not otherwise be met, except by sharing. There was a feeling that existing voc-ed facilities should be better used before thought is given to building new facilities.

A need was voiced by educators for a statewide common data gathering and dissemination system to determine job market needs and the types of programs required to meet those needs.

Another concern voiced by educa-

tors was the need for evaluation procedures that do not make false assumptions about the value of voc-ed because some students who graduate from voc-ed programs do not enter fields for which trained.

The needs of out-of-school youth and adults was a concern of many. It was stressed that more discussion and thought needs to be directed at reaching that segment of the population that is not enrolled in secondary or post-secondary education and who cannot necessarily function in these settings.

Other key concerns voiced during the conference were the importance of teaching young people and adults how to be good parents, improving the administration of voc-ed at all levels, holding all education programs accountable for their results, and looking at safety and employment laws which restrict young people from obtaining hands-on experiences in the work world.

## **Full Report**

A comprehensive report on the Governor's Conference will be published in June. To put your name on a list to receive a copy, write the ACTVE News.

# Smith Chosen Outstanding Industrial Arts Teacher

George Smith of Carthage was chosen as the Outstanding Industrial Arts Teacher of Texas at the Annual Industrial Arts Teacher Conference, held February 26th at College Station.

Smith, director of Industrial Arts Programs for the Carthage Independent School District, was recognized by the Texas Industrial Arts Teacher Association for his dedication and work with his students over the years, according to Ron Foy, executive secretary of TIAA.

"I'm very strong on working with

students in club activities," says Smith, who considers being selected by his peers for such an award one of the biggest honors an individual can receive.

Smith serves as advisor to Chapter 30 of the Texas Industrial Arts Students Association. His chapter has been selected as the Outstanding Industrial Arts Chapter of Texas the past five years in a row.

Chapter 30, under Smith's guidance, has also won national awards. In 1972, the chapter was selected as the

most "outstanding" in the nation. It was first runner-up for that honor in 1973.



George Smith  
wins teacher award

## Vocational Mini-Plan Available

The "Texas Vocational Education Mini-Plan 1977" is now available from the Texas Education Agency.

The 12-page plan contains past, current, and projected voc-ed enrollment and funding information; pro-

jected labor market supply and demand information by program areas; brief descriptions of what each voc-ed program area strives to achieve; a suggested 3-step process for short and long-range voc-ed planning; and a map showing where Texas' area vocational schools are located.

The plan also cites by page number where various types of information can be found in the Texas State Plan for Vocational Education (i.e., administrator and supervisor qualifications, construction requirements, definitions of terms, teacher qualifications by level, etc.).

A directory by name, area of responsibility, and phone number, of the Texas Education Agency, voc-ed personnel is also contained in the mini-plan.

To secure a copy, send \$1 to the Publications Distribution Office, Texas Education Agency, 201 East 11th Street, Austin 78701.

## ACTIVE Submits 8th Report to Governor Dolph Briscoe

The ACTIVE submitted its annual report to Governor Dolph Briscoe April 1.

Entitled, "Vocational Education . . . Gateway to the Future," the report cites current issues which affect the funding and administration of vocational education; long-range manpower projections; goals for "matching people and jobs"; and a summary of key points raised during the February 15-16 Governor's Conference on Technical-Vocational Education in Austin.

The report contains responses from the ACTIVE to such issues as off-campus post-secondary offerings; the post-secondary contingency fund; the proposed 'blue ribbon' study commissions on education; the manner in which voc-ed should be funded; voc-ed teaching loads; area vocational schools; the evaluation of programs, and career exploration experiences.

Limited copies of the 34-page report are available from the ACTIVE News.

## Advisory Committee Guide Aids Organization, Operation

How to get the most and best from a committee is the subject of "Advisory Committees for Occupational Education: A Guide to Organization and Operation."

The 90-page handbook was written for those responsible for developing and improving vocational and technical education programs at schools and colleges and for preparing employable graduates for the world of work.

Author Albert J. Riendeau first explores the role of an advisory committee as a productive way to provide closer cooperation and a better understanding of occupational education by industry, the general public, and the schools. He then defines how to select, organize and reward members; conduct productive meetings; implement recommendations and evaluate results. There are examples of letters, certificates and other materials that could be used in advisory committee work.

The handbook costs \$2.95 and can be ordered from: Richard Vorndran, product manager, Gregg/McGraw-Hill, 1221 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020.

### May 3rd ACTIVE Meeting Set

A regular meeting of the Advisory Council for Technical-Vocational Education in Texas will be held May 3rd in Austin.

The meeting will be held in the International Room at the Ramada Inn Gondolier (I-35 at Riverside Drive). For a meeting agenda, contact the ACTIVE office.

# High School Career Education Book Published

"Career Education in the High School," co-authored by Ken Hoyt, Rupert Evans, Garth Magnum, Ella Bowen, and G. Donald Gale, is now available from the Olympus Publishing Company.

Closely examined in the 470-page book is the role of the high school in American education and how career education contributes to it.

Also examined are the career development process as an inevitable part of human development at this age; the CE role of academic subjects; the development of work values and personal values; the transition from school to work, with keys to labor market knowledge and job placement; the development of decision making skills; the avoidance of race and sex stereotypes; integrating voc-ed, cooperative work experience programs into a career education system.

The role of the school counselor, employers, labor organizations, and other community institutions and re-

sources in the career education process are also examined in the book.

The cost of the book is \$12.95. To

order it, write the Olympus Publishing Company, 1670 East 13th South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84105.

## 1977 Vocational Youth Leadership State Conventions

Vocational Industrial Clubs of America

April 14-16

Tarrant County Convention Center, Fort Worth

Future Homemakers of America

April 21-22

Astroarena, Houston

Office Education Association

May 6-7

Astroworld Hotel, Houston

Future Farmers of America

June 13-15

Tarrant County Convention Center, Fort Worth

The following youth groups have already held state conventions: Distributive Education Clubs of America, March 10-13, Dallas; Vocational Office Opportunities Clubs of Texas, March 17-18, Dallas; and the Texas Association of Health Occupations Students, March 18-19, Houston.

The Advisory Council for Technical-  
Vocational Education in Texas  
P. O. Box 1886  
Austin, Texas 78767

