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## THE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN TEXAS

### High Technology Subject of Conference

A Statewide Conference on High Technology, slated for October 7-8 at the Quality Inn South in Austin, is taking shape.

Sponsored by the Advisory Council and the Texas Education Agency, the conference theme is "High Technology: Its Impact on Education, Work and the Economy."

Topics and presenters confirmed for the conference include:

- \*Electronics/Communications, Texas Instruments
- \*Computers/Word Processors, IBM
- \*CAD/CAM, Bausch & Lomb, Inc.
- \*Robotics, Texas Instruments
- \*Energy, Shell Oil Company
- \*Biomedical Engineering, Baylor College of Medicine
- \*Aerospace, General Dynamics Corporation.
- \*High Technology Instructional Options, Austin Community College

The conference will also feature a banquet and luncheon. State and national perspectives of "High Technology and the Economy" will be provided.

Exhibits will include "computergraphic" and "computer aided instruction" systems.

The conference is oriented toward secondary and post-secondary technical-vocational education administrators, board members, general administrators, members of vocational advisory committees, and other representatives from business, industry and labor. The conference is open to the public.

The registration fee is \$30.00. It covers the cost of meals, breaks and a proceedings to be published following the conference. Facilities will restrict the registration to 400 people. For a registration form write or call the ACTIVE Office.

Registration and exhibits open at 11:30 a.m. on October 7, followed by the opening general session at 1:15 p.m. The conference will adjourn following the noon luncheon on October 8.

Assisting the Advisory Council and TEA with the conference are several cooperating sponsors. They are:

- \*Texas Association of Post-Secondary Occupational Administrators
- \*Texas Vocational Administrators and Supervisors Association
- \*Texas Vocational Technical Association and Affiliates
- \*Vocational-Technical Education Development Foundation
- \*Texas Public Community/Junior College Association
- \*Texas State Technical Institute System
- \*Governor's Office of Volunteer Services
- \*Texas Aerospace and National Defense Technology Development Council
- \*Texas Association of Business
- \*Texas Industrial Commission
- \*Texas Industrial Development Council
- \*Texas Employment Commission
- \*Texas Research League
- \*State Employment & Training Council
- \*National Alliance of Business

### Council Makes Recommendations to SBOE

The Advisory Council publishes a "Special Report" every two years, containing primarily recommendations requiring state legislation and/or appropriations. The State Board of Education has been quite receptive to these special reports and has successfully carried many recommendations forward to the State Legislature.

The Council commends the State Board of Education for its efforts in securing legislative action in response to two recommendations contained in the 1980 special report. The 1981 Legislature:

(1) enacted legislation to pay every secondary level vocational teacher for two years of business and industry work experience required for certification; and

(2) appropriated \$5 million in state funds for the purchase of instructional equipment for use at the secondary school level.

Thanks to the SBOE and Texas Legislature, the recruitment and retention of vocational teachers will be enhanced, and vocational educators will be in a much better position to implement new programs in response to community needs.

There were other actions taken by the State Board of Education and/or Legislature during the past two years, either independent of or in response to Council recommendations, which warrant special commendations.

Among these actions were: special allocation to secondary school districts from general revenue funds in support of vocational education; enactment of curriculum reform legislation which recognizes vocational education as a part of a well-balanced curriculum; enactment of legislation calling for a comprehensive study of vocational education to improve its quality

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and delivery; passage of substantial pay increases for teachers; passage of policies improving the allocation of teacher units and allowing extended contracts for pre-employment laboratory teachers; and work was begun on revamping teacher education and certification.

ACTIVE Recommendations

1. Transportation

Many school districts contract with other school districts, post-secondary institutions or private vocational schools for vocational instruction. One of the problems involved in contracting is transportation guidelines and/or restrictions. Interpretations of existing laws allow for the reimbursement of transportation costs only to school districts and then only if the transportation is in a school bus. This makes it very difficult and costly to transport just one, or two, or a limited number of students.

The Council therefore recommends:

*That Section 16.206 (g), Texas Education Code, be amended, to make provisions for payments to individuals for reimbursement of transportation expenses incurred while participating in an instructional program of vocational education under contract between school districts, post-secondary institutions and/or private vocational schools, when it is not economical to use school owned vehicles.*

2. Vocational Teachers:

There is a need for contracting between secondary and post-secondary institutions for instruction, but one of the problems impeding contractual arrangements is a lack of instructional personnel with secondary certification. In other words, any post-secondary teacher coming in instructional contact with high school students must be certified to teach at the secondary level.

Post-secondary institutions maintain high standards in the hiring of qualified teachers. The current law is unnecessarily restrictive and impedes the preparation of a skilled work force to meet the state's labor market needs.

The Council therefore recommends:

*That Section 16.103 (g), Texas Education Code, be amended, as follows: "...to provide for such appropriate vocational education instruction provided the instructors and instructional materials and equipment utilized meet secondary school program requirements OR THOSE PRESCRIBED FOR APPROVED POST-SECONDARY VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS."*

3. Instructional Materials:

Since 1969, the State Legislature has made provision for an allocation of \$400 for instructional materials for each vocational education teacher unit. The increased cost of instructional materials has diminished the purchasing power of the allocation.

The Council therefore recommends:

*That Section 16.103 (f), Texas Education Code, be*

*amended, by changing the \$400 allocation to \$800. In further provision, that the allocation as it applies to pre-employment laboratory units be increased to \$1,000.*

4. Allocation of Units:

Low enrollment is the reason many vocational education programs were discontinued during the past two years, even though they were on target with job needs of the community. There were just not enough regular students. Many school districts offer adult vocational courses in addition to their regular vocational education programs and most have had increases in their adult ed courses.

Insufficient funds is one of the problems hindering school districts in their efforts to provide adult vocational education.

The Council therefore recommends:

*That statutory and/or policy provisions be made to make adults eligible students for the allocation and reallocation of vocational teacher units.*

Such action would address the shortage of skilled workers and allow local schools to maintain comprehensive voc ed offerings, better serving regular and adult students. Collaboration between secondary and post-secondary programs should be ensured to minimize duplication of resources and efforts.

5. Area Vocational School Jurisdictions:

Even though vocational education funding and programs has increased over the past 15 years, many school systems, by themselves, cannot respond to their respective community's labor market needs. Many school districts and post-secondary institutions are receptive to joining hands to provide vocational instruction. Such relationships not only expand the number of programs available to students, but also can prove to be more economical in the long run. Currently, these relationships can only exist within county lines.

The Advisory Council therefore recommends:

*That Chapter 28, Texas Education Code, be amended, to make provisions for Area Vocational Schools that would cross county lines and/or encompass parts of several counties based on a jurisdiction that would serve the needs of citizens for vocational education.*

6. Post-Secondary Equipment Needs:

Lack of funds for equipment is one of the main problems facing post-secondary institutions. There is a critical need to start new programs, particularly in certain industrial areas and health occupations. If state funds were available to purchase equipment for new programs, much of this problem could be alleviated.

The Council therefore recommends:

*That \$5 million be appropriated to the Texas Education Agency during the 1984-85 biennium for the purchase of equipment to initiate or redirect occupational education programs at the post-secondary level*

(Recommendations, Continued from Page 2)

*in programs training for jobs in skill shortage areas.*

7. Adult Education:

"Illiteracy in this country is turning out to be a blight that won't go away...Today, a staggering 23 million Americans - 1 in 5 adults - lack the reading and writing abilities to handle the minimal demands of daily living. An additional 30 million are only marginally capable of being productive workers...More than one third of adults have not completed high school."

--U.S. News & World Report, May 17, 1982

Texas provided adult academic education to 130,000 citizens in FY '81. The number of citizens served represents one-fourth the number of adults who would have participated if programs had been made available to them.

In addition to achieving proficiency in basic skills and to acquire a high school diploma or its equivalency, many adults have a need for "skill training."

The Council therefore recommends:

*a. That \$15 million in state funds be appropriated the first year of the '84-85 biennium and \$17.5 million in state funds be appropriated the second year of the '84-85 biennium for use in providing adult academic education.*

*b. That \$3 million in state funds be appropriated the first year of the '84-85 biennium and \$5 million in state funds be appropriated the second year of the '84-85 biennium for use in providing adult vocational education.*

(NOTE: The impetus for most of these recommendations came from the results of surveys made of secondary and post-secondary institutions by the ACTIVE. These results will be highlighted in the next issue of the newsletter. The information for this article was taken from the Special Report to the State Board of Education, written by Will Reece).

### TEA Drafts Legislative Proposals

The Texas Education Agency has completed work on the budget proposals to the 1983 Legislature. The recommendations for vocational education are:

1. a funding level that would permit 500 new vocational education units each year of the 1984-85 biennium.

2. an increase in foundation school program funds from \$215.7 million in FY '83 to \$282.5 million in FY '85 for vocational education at the secondary level.

3. an increase from \$5 million in state funds in '82-83 biennium to \$10 million in '84-85 biennium for vocational education equipment at the secondary school level. A similar amount is being requested for post-secondary.

4. an increase in general revenue funds from \$3.2 million in FY '83 to \$3.5 million for '84 and

\$3.8 million for FY '85 in support of local vocational programs at the secondary school level. The same amount is being asked for post-secondary.

5. an increase from \$1.5 million each year of '82-83 biennium for community education to \$3 million each year of '84-85 biennium.

6. an increase from \$7.2 million each year of '82-83 biennium for adult basic and vocational education to \$10 million each year of '84-85 biennium.

7. an increase from \$1.78 million in '82-83 biennium for industrial start-up training to \$2.8 million for '84-85 biennium.

### Rules Change Adopted on Subjects

Commissioner of Education Raymon Bynum notified school districts in May of the change in rules concerning the vocational education section of the List of Approved Subjects and Courses, Grades 7-12. The revised list of vocational education courses includes the following changes:

(1) adds two home economics courses (Food and Nutrition, Clothing and Textiles);

(2) permits semester courses in home economics to be given in grade 10 as well as 11 and 12;

(3) adds Biology I as a prerequisite for Health Occupations Combination course;

(4) deletes the statement that certain courses must be taken for two consecutive semesters for credit to be granted, since this requirement is already stated in 19 TAC 97.115 and need not be repeated here;

(5) adds requirement for three consecutive class periods daily in Industrial Education Pre-Employment Laboratory courses and two consecutive class periods for Technical Pre-Employment Laboratory;

(6) addresses program requirements for Introductory Industrial Arts;

(7) adds Marketing and Distributive Education I as a prerequisite for Marketing and Distributive Education II;

(8) adds a VEH program in Marketing and Distributive Education; and

(9) adds CVAE and VEH programs in Health Occupations.

### HERE AND THERE

CERTIFICATION HEARING SET -- Vocational Educators will have an opportunity to voice their opinions about revision of the certification programs at a public hearing in October. The Commission on Standards for the Teaching Profession will receive recommendations/position papers concerning program standards for all professional and/or special service certificates. The hearing is scheduled for Saturday,

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October 30, at 1:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Spring Branch ISD, 955 Campbell Road, Houston.

Interested parties may give oral or written testimony. Those desiring to appear at the hearing should call the Office of Professional Development, TEA (512)834-4040, to be assigned a time. There will be a five-minute time limit.

\* \* \*

SUNSET PROCESS DELAYED -- A number of people testified on behalf of the Council during the June 24 public hearing. During the July 20 meeting, the Commission was unable to get to all the agencies and continued until August 17, when a quorum did not materialize. The decision on the ACTIVE has been extended until the first week in October.

\* \* \*

ACTIVE/FOUNDATION TO MEET -- The Advisory Council and Vocational-Technical Education Development Foundation are planning to hold a portion of their next meetings together. The Council will meet at 9:45 a.m. Thursday, October 7, at the Quality Inn South in Austin. Foundation members will join the group about 10:30. The meeting will adjourn at 11:30 a.m., so members of both organizations may attend the High Technology Conference.

\* \* \*

OKLAHOMA SUCCESSES ON EXHIBIT -- Participants in a workshop entitled, "Vocational Education, Economic

Development and Productivity: A Study Tour of Exemplary Programs," will get to see several of Oklahoma's success stories first hand. The workshop is set for September 30-October 1 in Tulsa and is sponsored by The National Academy for Vocational Education and the Oklahoma State Department for Vocational Education. For more information, write or call The National Center for Research in Vocational Education, 1960 Kenny Road, Columbus, Ohio 43210, 800-848-4815.

\* \* \*

POST-SECONDARY CHIEFS TO MEET -- The Deans and Directors of the post-secondary institutions will meet from noon, October 6, until noon, October 7, at the Quality Inn South in Austin. The group will then participate in the High Technology Conference.

\* \* \*

NEW MEMBERS FOR APPRENTICESHIP COMMITTEE -- The Apprenticeship and Training Advisory Committee will reach a total of 26 members with the appointment of the four new members. They are R. J. Cotter of San Antonio, Clark McDonald of Crowley, Stanton Calvert of Austin (non-voting) and Claude Gray of Dickinson (non-voting).

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