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ACTIVE news

The Advisory Council For Technical-Vocational Education In Texas



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COUNCIL TO CONDUCT FOLLOW-UP SURVEY

Vocational teachers and administrators in 239 Texas school districts were at work this week listing at random the names of high school graduates/leavers for the 1972-73 school year to be used in an evaluation survey by the Advisory Council for Technical Vocational Education in Texas.

Along with student names by vocational programs, the critical need was for recent and current addresses. Even for one-year follow-ups of high school graduates, inability-to-locate generally runs as high as 10% statewide and reaches 50% for some school districts. That problem is compounded when the time span is five years out of high school.

FOCUS OF THE SURVEY

Three purposes lie at the heart of the survey to be done this spring. One is to identify among former vocational students any gains or advantages from vocational programs other than occupational skills and salaries/wages earned.

Another purpose is to identify any unmet educational needs among former vocational students five years out of high school. A third purpose is to examine the match-up of their original expectations with actual experiences--to gain some insight on how their education may be supporting self-fulfilling life styles.

Reasons for making the survey come from legal requirements. The Council is responsible for evaluating vocational education programs in Texas. It has not sought student opinions about their public school education in a statewide survey since 1971.

NEW HORIZONS

The Council has used and will continue to

use "measurements" like the employment of vocational students in occupations for which trained or in related jobs, and their earnings. Yet, many Council members like many educators think those measures may be too simplistic.

The Council is interested also in vocational education as an effective instructional mode for basic skills like reading, writing, and mathematics. These, too, are essential skills for progress in the world of work.

In past generations, most Americans worked in order to live. In a post-industrial society, increasing numbers of persons may live in order to work; that is, "work" whether paid or unpaid may become a significant means for self-development for achieving identity and status in a community. This hypothesis, too, is being tested in the survey.

PUBLIC FORUM PLANNED

The Council also has a legal responsibility to provide once each year an opportunity for the public to comment on vocational education programs. For 1978 the Council plans a series of 20 regional conferences, based on Education Service Center geographical regions, starting in September.

Regional portions of the statewide survey may provide a basis for examination and discussion at those conferences.

A stratified sample of 16,895 former vocational students was built by the Council's staff, proportional to 1972-73 ADA by Education Service regions and by sizes of school districts in Texas.

Only the first (largest) six school dis-

strict size groupings standardly used by the Texas Education Agency were used for that dimension of the stratified sample. In smaller sized school districts vocational education programs rarely occur.

BIG "IF" IN THE EFFORT

From the total universe of 16,895, an analytical base of approximately 5,000 usable responses is hoped for. On that point rest the two big "ifs" in the survey: if current addresses for former vocational students five years out of high school can be obtained; and if voluntary responses among them will reach the targeted 5,000 figure.

Providing help and oversight in planning the survey has been an advisory committee. Members are U. D. Adams, president of the Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association

of Texas; Ms. Karen Cotton, teacher of Home Economics in Johnston High School, Austin ISD; Ms. Edith Patterson, program director for the Occupational and Continuing Education Division of the Houston ISD.

Also Ms. Wanda Insall, past president of the Vocational Office Education Teachers Association of Texas; Ms. Willine Park, president-elect of the Texas Health Occupations Association; Charles Priddy, Vocational Counselor, Austin ISD; David Bohannon, Vocational Administrator, Lampasas ISD; and Ronald E. Morrison, Coordinator of Industrial Cooperative Training, Round Rock ISD.

(For a summary of the survey instrument and possible uses of results, watch for the next issue of ACTIVE News.)

COUNCIL TO PUBLISH PROMISING PRACTICES

During a 1977 planning session, the Adult Education/Special Services Committee of the Advisory Council for Technical-Vocational Education in Texas established as one of its objectives the identification of a cross section of promising practices in vocational education for the handicapped.

The Committee made visits to many school districts, state schools, community colleges, and other institutions in Texas to view vocational education programs and services for the handicapped. Many of the secondary programs visited were reviewed during a 1977 spring workshop on "Secondary Programming for the Handicapped," sponsored by The University of Texas at Austin. After lengthy discussions, impressive tours and a review of curricula with local administra-

tors, the Committee thought it would be useful to share proven educational techniques and information with other administrators, educators, school board members, concerned citizens and parents who are interested in effectively serving handicapped persons in their community.

It is hoped that the publication will help to promote continued development of vocational education for the handicapped and assist in widening the horizon for handicapped persons.

The publication should be ready for dissemination in early June 1978. Interested persons may contact the Council Office, 512/475-2046, P. O. Box 1886, Austin, Texas, 78767.

LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES

People accept invitations to serve on advisory committees for two basic reasons. They may be concerned about the quality of education and training their future employees are getting, or they may wish to help the school system spend its money

wisely. The advisory committee provides closer cooperation and a better understanding of occupational education by industry, the general public, and the school. Closer listening to local advisory committees will pay good dividends.

FUTURE HOMEMAKERS OF AMERICA TO MEET

The Future Homemakers of America will be attending the 1978 state meeting of the Texas FHA, with over 6,000 members and advisors from across the state.

"The New Dimensions of FHA/HERO" (Future Homemakers of America/Homemaking Education and Related Occupations) is the theme of the 1978 meeting, which will be held at the Convention Center, Dallas, April 20-21. Lewis Timberlake, a bright and sparkling member of Help Inspire Someone will challenge the delegates to grow and develop in leadership and "living" skills.

- Workshops on topics of concern to young people such as careers, assertiveness, communications, and issues such as abuse of children and the elderly will involve all members.
- The business of the Texas Association will be conducted at the House of Delegates session Thursday evening, followed by a talent show featuring representatives from Areas I-V. The theme of the

show is "Roots: Dimensions of Texas."

- Future Homemakers who have achieved unusual accomplishments by completing all levels of Encounter, a special growth and development program, will be honored at the Friday morning session.
- A state choir, composed of 130 Future Homemakers, will be featured. Clay Pope, music director of Nueces Canyon Schools, will direct the group.
- Installation of the 1979 state officers will climax the Friday session. At this time eleven officers elected through chapter participation throughout the state will be placed in office. A newly elected president will receive the gavel from Lee Stevenson, Grand Saline, Texas, outgoing president.
- The Future Homemakers of America is a vocational student organization sponsored by Homemaking Education, Texas Education Agency, with Mrs. Elizabeth F. Smith, Director, and Mrs. Betty Romans, Advisor.

AVA REQUESTS \$352 MILLION

In contrast to the Carter administration's proposed \$7 million cut, the American Vocational Association is asking Congress to approve a \$352 million increase in vocational education funding in fiscal 1979.

The AVA request amounts to more than \$987 million, compared with Carter's request of only \$635 million. The additional money is needed, says AVA, for several reasons. One is that federal support for voc. ed. has declined in relation to other educational activities, 7.8 percent of the budget in

Fiscal 1977 compared to 9.17 percent in fiscal 1974.

In addition, AVA says many voc. ed. facilities need remodeling; that voc. ed. has a great potential to provide job training to the handicapped, disadvantaged, minorities, women and the limited English speaking; that voc. ed. graduates are better prepared for finding jobs; and that many voc. ed. facilities must be modified to meet requirements of the Education for all Handicapped Children Act.

CAREER EDUCATION MAY BE FUNDED

The five year \$400 million Career Education Incentive Act may yet be funded as key members of Congress

work to get the legislation included in the upcoming appropriation bills.

TEX-SIS FOLLOW-UP WORKSHOP

A workshop on the Tex-SIS Follow-up System has been organized as a pre-convention activity for the Annual Forum of the Association for Institutional Research (AIR), which will be held at the Hyatt Regency, Houston, May 21-25, 1978. This workshop will be one of five workshops organized by AIR for the purpose of presenting subject areas of special interest to those in attendance. The Tex-SIS workshop will be held on May 21 (Sunday) from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Registration cost for this workshop is \$10.00. This amount does not

include the convention registration fee.

Workshop presenters will include Jim Reed (Tarrant County Junior College), Ray Lewis (San Antonio College), Toni Hall (Texas Education Agency), and Bill Pohl (Coordinating Board). Interested persons can contact Ms. Jean C. Chulak, Executive Secretary, Association for Institutional Research, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, 32306, for the appropriation registration packet.

DOL TO SPEND \$706 MILLION

DOL announced that more than a million summer jobs for disadvantaged youth aged 14 to 21 will be subsidized this year with \$706 million in Comprehensive Employment and Training Act money.

The number of jobs being created is the same as last year, but the program will cost \$13 million more because of the recent increase in the minimum wage. A total of

\$670 million in support is from the regular appropriation for the program. Another \$37 million is unspent money from last year. The remaining \$23 million will be used for the national Vocational Exploration Program (VEP) and for summer jobs programs for native Americans. The summer program will supplement many activities already under way supported by the Youth Employment and Demonstration Project Act. (Editor: Elton Thomas)

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