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# ACTIVE news

The Advisory Council For Technical-Vocational Education In Texas



Bill Elkins, Chairman

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## ACTIVE ELECTS NEW OFFICERS



C. C. (Bill) Elkins of Dallas and Dr. J. R. Jackson of LaGrange were recently elected Chair and Vice-Chair of the Advisory Council for Technical-Vocational Education in Texas.

Both were unanimously elected at the August 11 ACTIVE meeting in Austin. Mr. Elkins, who served as Vice-Chair of the Council since 1975, succeeds Dorothy Robinson of Palestine, a retired teacher and principal with over 46 years of experience in public education.

Elkins is President of Vocational Education Consultants in Dallas. In 1952 Mr. Elkins founded a nationwide network of private vocational schools which he



Vice-Chair

Chair

operated for many years. He is now majority stockholder of Elkins Radio Licensing School, Inc. in Dallas.

He served as a member of the State Advisory Committee on Career Education and is a member of the President's Committee for Employment of the Handicapped. Elkins is a former Chair of the Regional Coordinating Committee for the development of a Texas Statewide Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation. He was a founder and past President of the National Association of Trade and Technical Schools.

Dr. Jackson has served on the Advisory Council for Technical-Vocational Education in Texas since 1975. He is President Emeritis of Brazosport College in Lake Jackson. He served as President of the school for 11 years, before retiring in 1978. He was Superintendent of the Brazosport School District prior to coming to Brazosport College in 1967.

His education work experience also includes a nine-year tenure as an Associate Professor at Texas A & M University, and 11 years as a teacher in several Texas public school districts. Dr. Jackson is immediate Past President of the Texas Public Community/Junior College Association and was founding advisor of the State Association of Young Farmers of Texas, from 1954-61.

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## NACTVE NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The National Advisory Council on Vocational Education has named Ray Parrott of Boston, Mass., as its new Executive Director, Council Chairman Jack Thiele announced in August.

Parrott currently is Executive Director the Massachusetts Advisory Council on Vocational Education, a post he has held

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## ACTIVE FIRMS UP REGIONAL HEARINGS

The Advisory Council for Technical-Vocational Education in Texas has firmed up twenty (20) Regional Hearings throughout Texas, September 18 through October 23, 1978.

Present plans call for the Council to present an overall state view of vocational, technical, adult and manpower education: as to where we are, some needs and issues related to those needs.

This overview will be followed by discussions by citizens of the region of needs and resources for vocational, technical, adult and manpower education in the region.

A response will then be made by people identified with policy and administration of vocational, technical, adult and manpower programs.

Contact the Education Service Center nearest you or the Council for further information.

### Hearings are Scheduled as Follows:

DATE	ESC	CITY	LOCATION
9/18	III	Victoria	Victoria Com. Center 2905 E. North St.
9/19	II	Corpus Christi	Exposition Hall 402 S. Shoreline Drive
9/20	I	Edinburg	Regional ESC 1900 West Schunior
9/26	XV	San Angelo	San Angelo Com. Center 500 Rio Concho Drive
9/27	XVIII	Midland	Regional ESC Pilska Drive, Terminal
9/28	XIX	El Paso	Regional ESC 6611 Boeing Drive
9/28	XX	San Antonio	Texan Cultures Center Hemisfair Plaza
10/2	IV	Houston	Houston ISD Board Room 3830 Richmond
10/3	V	Beaumont	St. Andrews Church 1305 23rd Street
10/4	VI	Huntsville	Loman Student Center Sam Houston State
10/5	VII	(Longview)	T. G. Field Auditorium South 2nd & McGill
10/9	VIII	Mt. Pleasant	Regional ESC 100 North Riddle
10/10	X	Richardson	Brookhaven College 3939 Valley View Lane Farmers Branch
10/11	XI	Fort Worth	Arlington Com. Center 2800 S. Center, Arlington
10/12	XII	Waco	T.S.T.I. Conf. Ed. Bldg. 4410
10/16	XIV	Abilene	Regional ESC 3001 North Third
10/17	XVII	Lubbock	REA Building 505 Avenue A
10/18	XVI	Amarillo	Regional ESC 1601 South Cleveland
10/19	IX	Wichita Falls	Regional ESC 3014 Old Seymour Road
10/23	XIII	Austin	LBJ H. S. Auditorium 7309 Lazy Creek

## LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCILS

Local advisory councils may become the spearhead of a new coalition of workers, employers, and educators to solve pressing employment problems, in the view of many analysts of current labor market trends.

Such councils are often regarded as the best way to make sure that good jobs do not go unfilled at the very time hundreds of people are looking for work; to coordinate work-education activities in a community so that needless duplication of effort is ended; and to make readily accessible to persons who need them whatever resources exist in the community for training, counseling, and job placement.

Unemployment was once thought to be a problem peculiar to developed nations emerging from an industrial era. It is now universal in all countries, including "Third World" nations in which population growths have outrun economic developments.

"Misemployment" is even worse than unemployment, believes Herbert Greenberg, President of marketing Survey and Research Corporation. He estimates that 80 percent of U. S. workers are doing jobs for which they are not suited.

He believes the time is near when personnel offices "must begin selecting people in terms of what they are; not what they've done."

If true, local advisory councils face some real challenges for change. Community colleges have made particularly effective use of such councils, and now enroll more students than do senior colleges and universities.

In 1965, only about 13 percent of community college students in the U. S. were enrolled in occupational training programs. This year, half of all two-year college students were enrolled in vocational/technical education programs--plus about three million more students enrolled in non-credit adult education activities, an increase of 463.5 percent over the past 10 years.

## **PRISON VOC ED PROGRAMS DIFFER WIDELY**

A new study from Ohio State University's National Center for Research in Vocational Education has found that prison inmates show great interest in vocational education.

The 18-month study, funded by the U. S. Office of Education, reported that roughly 16 percent of a nationwide sample of 212,000 inmates in 370 jails and prisons are currently enrolled in vocational education. Another 4 percent are waiting to enroll. Researchers studied the diversity and status of prison voc ed programs and made recommendations to standardize them, but did not attempt to compare programs or judge their quality.

### **Punishment or Rehabilitation?**

What the study did reveal is that correctional specialists still have not resolved the debate over the value of educational programs in aiding inmates' readjustment to society. In addition, researchers found little community acceptance of vocational programs that include work furloughs outside the prison.

### **No High Priority**

Neither vocational training nor other kinds of educational programs get high budget priority at most of the nation's jails and prisons, which generally are financially pressed. Some financial support comes from "outside" sources such as the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, state departments of vocational education and universities and community colleges.

### **Limited and Traditional**

Vocational programs which do exist are limited in scope and geared toward such traditional courses as welding, auto mechanics, auto body repair and carpentry.

The "lack of program openings" was mentioned by 41 percent of inmates asked why they weren't enrolled in a vocational program. Thirty-nine percent of the youth institutions and 48 percent of the adult

facilities said they planned new programs within the next year. Few of the more than 4,000 city and county jails across the country offer any kind of education training, according to the study.

The study found no formal mechanism for standardizing prison education programs or even for reporting what programs exist. Neither is there any unified, nationwide plan for improving educational opportunities in jails and prisons.

More information about the study is available from Paul Schroeder or Robert Abram, National Center for Research in Vocational Education, 1960 Kenny Road, Columbus, Ohio 43210.

## **FEDERAL FUNDS FOR PRISON EDUCATION**

Legislation has been introduced by Sen. Birch Bayh, D-Ind., under which the federal government would pick up 90 percent of the tab for prisoner education programs supervised by state education agencies.

The Federal Correctional Education Assistance Act would authorize \$50 million for fiscal 1979 and \$75 million in each of the next four years for grants to state and local education agencies, postsecondary institutions and other organizations, with state allocations based on prison population.

## **CETA-BASED GUIDANCE PROGRAMS**

The National Center for Research in Vocational Education has begun a nine-month effort to identify exemplary CETA based urban guidance services for out-of-school unemployed youths and adults and recommend ways to expand such programs.

Financed by the U. S. Office of Education's vocational education branch, the study will result in publication of a monograph. Center researchers will identify three sites with exemplary guidance and counseling programs. The resulting monograph, to be completed in January 1979, will include des-

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since 1973. Previously, he served as a Peace Corps official in Africa and Washington, as Assistant to the President of the Norfolk and Western Railroad and as a senior consultant with the social sciences research firm of Arthur D. Little, Inc., of Cambridge, Mass. The Council unanimously chose Parrott.

Parrott is a graduate of Trinity College, Hartford, Conn., and holder of a masters degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Medford, Mass. He will assume his new duties September 11.

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criptions of the case studies and recommendations for expanding and improving urban guidance programs.

For more information, write the National Center for Research in Vocational Education, 1960 Kenny Road, Columbus, Ohio 43210.

The Advisory Council for Technical-  
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## TEENAGE JOBLESS RATES

The lengthy period American youngsters spend making the transition from school to work artificially boosts their measured unemployment rates, according to a University of Illinois economist.

Professor John Parrish says in a recent issue of the Illinois Business Review that a great many young people who spend most of their time as students claim they are also seeking jobs and are thus counted by the federal government as unemployed.

If youth unemployment is not counted, joblessness is an acceptable 3.2 percent, says Parrish. The long school-to-work transition of young people 24 and under, however, has pushed their jobless rate to more than 15 percent, compared with teenage unemployment of 5 percent in Australia, 7.3 percent in Japan and 5.6 percent in Sweden.

Editor: Elton Thomas

Dallas Public Library

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Government Documents