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ACTIVE news

The Advisory Council For Technical-Vocational Education In Texas



Bill Elkins, Chairman

Alton D. Ice, Executive Director

Box 1886 Austin, Texas 78767 512/475-2046

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Government Documents

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LAC SURVEY COMPLETED

During the summer of 1978 the Advisory Council conducted a survey of school board members, school administrators, vocational administrators and LAC members of the secondary and post-secondary levels to determine the need for a better understanding of the role and function of local advisory committees.

Interviews were conducted by the ACTIVE staff with 29 participants at the secondary level and 42 participants at the post-secondary level. In developing the sample, the ACTIVE gave consideration to geographical location, standard metropolitan statistical areas, economic environment, enrollments and accessibility. The sample included the major areas of involvement with local advisory committees in the state; and, therefore, the results should provide a base for generalization.

Based on the survey results, major functions performed by local advisory committees are:

- Advise on current job needs in the community or area.
- Identify the basic skills (competencies) in those job needs.
- Review the content of technical-vocational courses and advise on their relevancy to occupational needs.
- Provide information to help develop new programs to meet new or emerging manpower needs and job opportunities.

- Assist in establishing proficiency standards for students.
- Review and advise on long-range and annual plans for technical-vocational education.

Other local advisory committees functions indicated by those interviewed were:

- Provide public relations for vocational education to attract students and sell to community.
- Assist in student placement.
- Participate in Career Day activities and campus visits.
- Provide work experience for students.
- Serve as resource persons.
- Assist in the recruitment of qualified teachers for vocational education.
- Assist in the recruitment of students.
- Donate equipment.
- Conduct needs surveys of facilities and equipment.

For a complete report on the Local Advisory Committee Survey contact ACTIVE, P. O. Box 1886, Austin, Texas 78767. Phone: 512/475-2046.

AVA CONVENTION

The 72nd Annual Convention of the American Vocational Association will be held in Dallas December 1-6, 1978. Convention registration will be at the Dallas Convention Center Friday through Wednesday noon.

Hotel reservations for the 1978 convention must be made with the Official Housing Request Form through the Dallas Housing Service, AVA, Chamber of Commerce, 1507 Pacific Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75201.

TEXAS STATE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE'S ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Over 50 representatives from Texas State Technical Institute's advisory committees met this month in Waco to discuss technical education and TSTI.

The meeting was called at the request of several industry representatives. These representatives are all members of advisory councils for TSTI's 60 plus technical and skill development programs. They help plan the curriculum and continually update what is taught making sure TSTI graduates have skills needed in industry. TSTI has 92 statewide advisory committees.

The September 12 meeting was called to develop a strategy to reach the decision-makers in industry, business and government with the facts about the contribution technical education can make in reducing current and projected shortages of technical manpower.

Several points were brought out at the meeting:

1. Vocational-technical education funding hasn't kept pace with growth or encouraged growth.

2. There is a need for a redirection for expenditure of the education dollar--vocational-technical education is not getting its share.

3. Voc. tech. education is cost effective. The intensive, short-term training produces taxpayers who repay the investment in a short period of time.

Supply and demand for manpower in the skilled trades and technology were discussed. Today, 80 percent of the jobs require less than a college degree yet of the 640,000 students enrolled in higher education, only 22 percent are in technical programs. Funding for higher education was also discussed. The budget for higher education is \$1.3 billion for the 1978 - 79 biennium with only seven and one-half percent earmarked for technical education though 22 percent of the enrollment is in this area.

Several industry representatives addressed the group concerning their organizing to form a foundation to help TSTI.

"LIBERAL" VS. "VOCATIONAL" EDUCATION

The continuing debate over "liberal" versus "vocational" education is pointless and based on an elitist notion of what constitutes a good or prestigious job, according to U. S. Commissioner of Education Ernest Boyer.

In an address before the Southern Regional Education Board, Boyer said, "We hear a lot of talk these days about 'liberal versus vocational' education, as if academic life can somehow be separated from vocation. Such a view not only distorts the present, it denies the past. Even that great center of academic sophistication, Harvard College, was founded not only to defend the Christian faith, but also to prepare young

men for jobs: the ministry, law, medicine, teaching and professions pursued by the privileged class."

"Contributing to this frivolous debate," Boyer continued, "are deeply ingrained notions about the inherent nature of some jobs." "It is true, of course," he said, "some work is not vocation, and some jobs are not uplifting, but degrading. But the problem of relating work to higher education cannot be so easily dismissed. The truth is that many new kinds of useful and crucial work (have) emerged in recent years, and yet we still recognize those jobs which have been around the longest and which fit our own prestige mold."

NAABAVE PLANS PUBLIC HEARING

The National Association for the Advancement of Black Americans in Vocational Education is planning a public hearing from 2-5 p.m. on December 3 in Dallas during the American Vocational Association Convention. Participants will be afforded an opportunity to address problems and concerns in vocational education for black people in this country.

The NAABAVE is soliciting scholarly written papers to possibly be presented during the December 3 hearing. A few suggested topics that the papers could address are:

- *Strategies for Black Participation in Vocational Political Process.
- *Implications of the Bakke Decision for Increasing Black Participation in Vocational Education.
- *Vocational Education Can Be for You.
- *The Sex Fairness Movement with Implications for Blacks in Vocational Education.

Written papers five to seven minutes in length on other topics of concern are welcomed from participants.

Papers should be submitted by November 1 to Angie Grace, NAABAVE Vice President, P. O. Box 1886, Austin, Texas 78767.

FACILITY PLANNING CONFERENCE

The Center for Community Education Facility Planning will be conducting a two-day workshop, November 20-21, on "Planning Facilities for Community Use" at the St. Anthony Hotel in San Antonio. The workshop is intended to involve planners, community educators, municipal representatives, superintendents, community residents, mayors, architects and other social and educational representatives. Workshop organizers would like to encourage local representatives from the same community to become involved.

The program is designed to provide participants with awareness and skills to plan facilities which reflect community needs.

Topics include: developing interagency relationships, funding, community involvement, renovation, new construction, and architectural implications. This workshop would especially benefit school districts planning new facilities or trying to solve the problem of surplus space.

For more information contact Mr. Bob Allen, Director, Adult Programs, Texas Education Agency, 201 East Eleventh Street, Austin, Texas 78701. Phone: 512/475-3891.

HANDICAPPED STUDENTS

September 1, 1978, is the federally mandated implementation date for the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975 (Public Law 94-142). The far reaching impact of this law, especially on local education agencies will be significant and disturbing to many administrators, teachers, counselors and related professional personnel. An important cause of this disturbance will be a shortage of trained personnel who can effectively serve each "mainstreamed" handicapped student after he or she is integrated into the public schools.

One key educational area that will definitely have a shortage of trained personnel is that of Occupational/Vocational Guidance at the secondary level. A recent, innovative graduate program at North Texas State University was developed jointly by the university's Occupational/Vocational Education Division and the Center for Rehabilitation Studies. This cooperative program promises, among other things, to help meet the anticipated demand for qualified professionals who will be able to effectively serve the handicapped student.

Specifics of the coursework should be requested from Dr. Pat McLeod, Division of Occupational and Vocational Education, College of Education, Box 6711, North Texas State University, Denton, Texas 76203.

TRAINING FOR TRAINERS

The American Society for Training and Development is working in a cooperative effort with Houston Community College

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(TRAINERS, continued from page 3)

System (HCCS) to jointly offer a program geared to training for trainers.

Training for Trainers is a practical series of workshops designed to make one a more effective trainer through intensive and dynamic involvement in the elements of training, application of what is learned in a training situation, reinforcement, and the evaluation of real problems.

For more information contact Dianne Bynum, Houston Community College System, 22 Waugh Drive, Houston, Texas 77007. Phone: 713/869-5021

ACTIVE SLIDE LIBRARY

The Advisory Council would like to have slides of vocational education scenes in the state. For example: vocational program activities, local advisory committees in action, etc.

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Vocational Education in Texas**
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The Council would appreciate you sharing a copy of appropriate slides for our slide library. Please mail to: ACTVE, P. O. Box 1886, Austin, Texas 78767.

MIGRANT WORKERS

Labor Secretary Ray Marshall has announced his department will provide \$5.8 million to 17 colleges and universities to educate migrant and rural workers and their dependents. The funds will come from the High School Equivalency Program (HEP) and College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP), which are administered by Labor's Employment and Training Administration.

HEP participants will be trained to pass the GED test. CAMP participants will receive tuition assistance, tutoring and counseling while attending these schools.

Contact: Labor Department's ETA Office of Farmworker Programs, 601 D. St., NW, Washington, D. C. 20213.

Editor: Elton Thomas