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ACTIVE news



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THE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN TEXAS

The Profession Cares

EDITOR'S NOTE: One of the strongest impressions I received upon joining the vocational education community and one that has grown steadily with time is the depth of the dedicated, caring attitude of vo-tec teachers. Our teachers truly care about each student individually and about the quality of training they receive. A prime example of this professional, caring attitude is exhibited in Diane Porter Davis' column in *Image*, the magazine for vocational home economics. Ms. Davis, who is the president of the Vocational Homemakers Association of Texas, was writing her impressions of a national home economics meeting, but the points she makes could apply to all programs, as they are universal.

"The President's Perspective" By Diane Porter Davis

Returning from the National Vocational Home Economics Education Conference in Louisville, Kentucky, I am still excited about what I heard, saw and experienced. A group of 400 home economists shared information based on the theme: **Focusing on Decision for Change**. We interacted with key legislative leaders, other home economics educators, and business representatives from across the country. Each speaker addressed their area of expertise with regard to home economics and our role today.

The first of our challenges came from Mr. Charles Radcliff, Minority Council and Staff Director, Committee on Education and Labor. He strongly stated that home economists must produce the most effective programs possible at the most important level—the classroom—with whatever funds are available to do the job. He assured us that **funds would be cut at every level during this administration**. Dr. Gene Bottoms, Executive Director, American Vocational Association, stressed that as professionals, we **must get involved** in local politics, and demonstrate enthusiasm about what we are doing and its impact on the lives of students today.

Business and industry representatives challenged us to be **aware and involved** in the supportive roles that we share with business: the development of human resources, job placement, economic development and adult re-training and cross-training. Too often business does not view our stu-

dents as an **economic resource** because they do not know about the diversity of our programs. And we, as teachers, often aren't on target in training our students because we lack an understanding of what really goes on in the business community. Some of the questions that mentally surfaced as I listened to the presenters were:

a. Are we providing our students with the necessary competencies for being long-term citizens as well as immediate students and employees?

b. Do we perceive them as students for a year or citizens for a lifetime?

c. Are we enthusiastic enough about what we are doing when we make contacts with industry leaders? Do we always complain or do we leave them with a positive impression of our programs?

d. Do we, as educators, consider **employability a major objective of education**? And if we don't teach employability, where and how do we expect our youth to find their place in the labor force—today or in the future?

A third perspective on challenge and decisions for change was offered by a number of home economists in the special interest sessions. Given the following facts, we do have a tremendous challenge to face in the next decade:

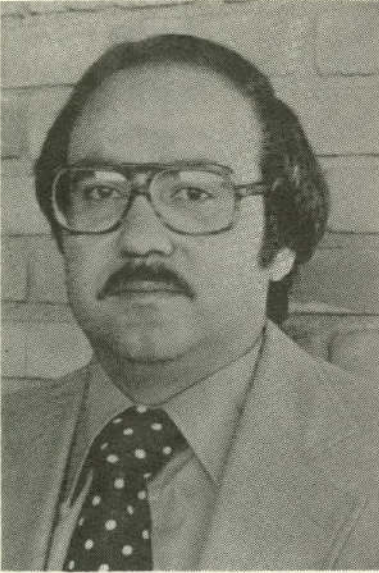
- that more than 40 million women are currently in the work force;
- that the average female worker is 35 years old, married and has pre-school children;

- child care is inadequate and expensive—especially for the after-school child;
- male and female roles are still stereotyped;
- divorce rates are one out of every two marriages;
- crime is rampant throughout our nation;
- productivity is at an all-time low for business and industry;
- there is an increase in the number of elderly in our population;
- energy crisis, pollution and inflation impact our lifestyles daily
- nutrition needs and food consumption
- our home environments are bombarded with new technology as we look for easier and more efficient ways to live.

I urge you to consider these questions: are we going to choose to accept only the traditional and teach obsolete attitudes and skills? Or, will we accept and become the change agents, **teaching new and relevant** methods, attitudes and skills?

As we approach the end of another school year, I encourage you to look beyond the walls of your classroom, get involved in your profession, evaluate what you are teaching and how you are teaching it. Are you meeting your students' needs for coping with the future?? **Home economics has a great challenge and opportunity in the 80's**. Let's work together to meet that challenge for we owe it to our students. **After all, we are the teachers!**

Juarez, Hunter, New Leaders



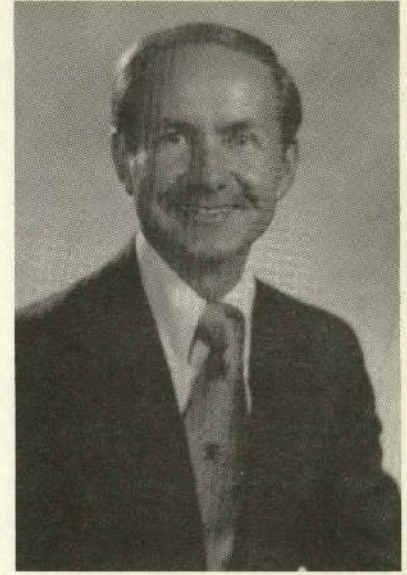
Dr. Jacinto Juarez
Chair

Dr. Jacinto Juarez of Laredo and Dr. Robert Hunter of Abilene have been elected chairperson and vice chairperson of the Advisory Council for Technical/Vocational Education in Texas.

Both were elected unanimously at the June 25-26 meeting in Austin. Dr. Juarez succeeds Don Rogers of Austin and Dr. Hunter follows Dr. Juarez.

The new chair is dean of vocational and technical education at Laredo Junior College. He was appointed to the Council in 1979 and has served on the Planning and Evaluation Committee, the Steering Committee, Task Force and as vice chair.

Dr. Hunter is vice president of Abilene Christian University. Since his appointment to the Council in 1978, he has served on the Adult Education and Special Services Committee, Steering Committee, Task Force and was elected vice chair to fill Dr. Frank Hubert's unexpired term in 1979.



Dr. Robert Hunter
Vice Chair

BRITE IDEAS

VOC. ED. PRIORITY IN VICTORIA -- On Oct. 31, the Victoria ISD School Board began a two-day examination of the instructional program of the district. They heard explanations and problems which covered the entire school program from nine members of the central staff, including Bob Olin, vocational administrator. At the close of the session, six curriculum goals were listed for priority consideration. Chief among those goals was a desire to improve attitudes within the community, the student population, faculty and staff toward vocational education. In keeping this objective, (and having no budgeted funds for public information activities), Bob Olin decided on an inexpensive but much-needed activity -- an "Image Improvement Program" for principals, counselors and general education teachers in VISD. They conducted two three-hour sessions, which ran from 9 a.m. to noon and included a luncheon prepared by food service students. The agenda included a briefing by six instructors of their programs and what aptitudes and basic skills each required; input from business and industry; student participation in the form of successful graduates; and a wrap-up session consisting of questions and recommendations. Mr. Olin reports receiving very favorable response from participants.

Victoria is very fortunate to have a superintendent (Dr. Robert D. Gee) who understands, appreciates and supports vocational education. This project is one that is needed in nearly every school district in the state. It is difficult to inform the general public about vocational education if most of the educational community doesn't understand or respect it.

NORTHEAST ISD SKILLSFEST SUCCESS -- The vocational department at Northeast ISD in San Antonio

decided if you couldn't get the citizens to come to the schools, why not take the students to the public. And that is what they have been doing for the past seven years in the form of a SKILLSFEST. This project (organized each year by Steve Foster) involves taking 1,500 vocational education teachers and students to a major mall to put on a mammoth "show-and-tell" demonstration. Set-up begins at 7 a.m. and breakdown at 7 p.m.; in between, the citizens are treated to puppet shows, food cooking demonstrations, blood pressure tests, style shows, product sampling, hair styling, and foliage grafting demonstrations, just to name a few. Other popular items included watching the "creation" of an 8x8' play house (complete with a porch, lights, and running water) by Lee High industrial co-op students and a rocket show using 7-foot rockets built by seventh grade Industrial Arts students. J. A. Oppelt, vocational administrator of Northeast ISD, said the main purpose of this activity is the competition. Students compete at their own school as to the creativity, quality, etc. of their project of the SKILLSFEST. This year, Churchill High won the Director's Trophy. The activity is a hit and several of the malls are bidding to have the show at their facility next year. And, SKILLSFEST has gone big time: it will be a part of Fiesta next year. The Fiesta Committee has asked if they could put SKILLSFEST on one of their tours and the last we heard, Northeast has agreed! Congratulations to Northeast on a job well done!

(EDITOR'S NOTE: We want to know what you are doing in your school or institution to spread the word about vocational education. Send us your BRITE IDEAS so we can share them with other educators and the citizens of Texas!)

Legislative News

Vocational education has been under fire during the latest budget process in Congress. President Reagan recommended a \$196 million rescission in vocational education funding; the Senate recommended

cutting \$124 million; and the House \$76 million. In the end, voc. ed. received a 12.5 percent cut for fiscal year 1981, reducing appropriations by more than \$98 million for the 1981-82 school year. The

House-Senate conference committee reached a compromise June 2, reducing current level funding of \$784 million to \$685 million. Rescissions cancel funds that were previously appropriated

Hardest hit by the congressional cuts are consumer and homemaking education, with a 30 percent cut; program improvement and supportive services with a

25% reduction; and special programs for the disadvantaged, which were cut back 25 percent.

The House and Senate authorizing and appropriations committees are now beginning their deliberations on line-by-line funding recommendations. Final action on the 1982 vocational education appropriations will not be taken until September.

HERE AND THERE

The Advisory Council will hold a public hearing on September 23 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Austin Municipal Auditorium. There will be a program consisting of key policymakers on the morning agenda, a bar-b-que luncheon for \$5.00 at noon and opportunity for testimony on the needs and successes of vocational education in the afternoon. Educators are urged to bring advisory council members, parents, students -- anyone who has something to say on how vocational education is working in this state.

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Public school discipline has long been a critical issue to both parents and teachers. In response to the need for better behavior management techniques, the Texas Classroom Teachers Association is sponsoring a workshop August 6-8 in San Antonio addressing this area of concern. For those teachers attending, the Region XX Education Service Center (ESC) has reviewed the 12-hour course and determined that it meets inservice credit requirements. Teachers attending the seminar for inservice purposes will have an official confirmation of their participation forwarded to their administration. For more information or to register, write or call Ann B. Pennington, Director, Professional Excellence Department, Texas Classroom Assn., P. O. Box 1389, Austin, TX 78767, (512)477-9415.

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The State Advisory Council for Marketing and Distributive Education sponsored a workshop for chairs and members of local Gulf Coast area MDE advisory boards recently in Houston. The program was chock-full of good information on topics such as, "Why Advisory Groups?," "Organizing a Committee," "Selling Careers in Marketing," and "Promoting Private Enterprise System."

One of the highlights of the meeting was the address by State Board of Education member, W. H. "Bill" Fetter. He spoke on the "Role and Responsi-

bility of Local Advisory Committees," and the punch line was "Get involved. No matter the size of the committee, jump right in and go to work and make a contribution." His suggestions for getting involved included: regularly attend meetings; be prepared by obtaining an agenda ahead of time; contribute to the discussion -- speak up, don't be a "yes" person. "You were appointed because you could contribute, so speak up and share your expertise."

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Congratulations to the Career Education Advisory Board (CEAB) of Dallas ISD, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. Led by Bill Gaylor of Rockwell International, the more than 400 CEAB members sit on 30 different committees for Skyline Career Development Center and other district career center cluster programs. These volunteers give many hours of their time to assist in making the occupational programs of Dallas ISD better. Weldon Griffith, manager of Skyline Center, said: "We couldn't get along without the advisory committees. They provide the vital link between industry and education that is essential to the success of our program."

* * *

The Advanced Study Center has officially begun its fellowship recruitment drive for 1981-82. Fellowships that consist of nine-to twelve-month in-residence appointments are available to national and international candidates. Applicants are considered in terms of their focus of interest, scholarly achievement, leadership ability, and potential for professional growth.

Individuals interested in more information about the Advanced Study Center should contact the National Center's Program Information Office, The National Center for Research in Vocational Education, The Ohio State University, 1960 Kenny Road, Columbus, Ohio 43210.

"GOODIES" CORNER

RESOURCES IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION -- Lists projects and materials that have been developed on many subjects of interest to vocational educators. Order from The National Center for Research in Vocational Education, The Ohio State University, 1960 Kenny Road, Columbus, Ohio 43210.

SEMINARS AND BOOKS FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION MANAGERS -- Contains topics of interest to vocational educators. Listing of headings include Program Development, Methodology, Marketing and Promotion, Administration, Reference, Personal Interest and Audio Visual Software. Published by the Bureau of Business and Technology, Inc., 331 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017.

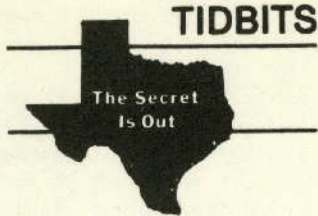
AVA PUBLICATIONS '81 -- The American Vocational Association has published a list of its publications on various subjects of vocational education. Write AVA Special Publication, 2020 N. 14th Street,

Arlington, VA 22201 to request a catalog.

OPEN ENTRIES, A COMPETENCY-BASED VOCATIONAL EDUCATION INFORMATION EXCHANGE -- This is a publication that contains news of Competency-Based Vocational Education and lists of materials available on CBVE. Subscription: \$5.00 per year. Write Open Entries, The Center for Studies in Vocational Education, Florida State University, Stone Bldg., Tallahassee, FL 32306.

CONNECTIONS, CONNECTIONS -- Is a new multimedia program which introduces junior high school students to the world of work and encourages girls to consider nontraditional occupations. A 161-page Student Gamebook includes hands-on experiences and activity-oriented lessons. The 279-page Leader's Guide provides background information about women and work, discussion questions, and general suggestions. In an accompanying 20-minute filmstrip,

Women at Work, three women discuss their careers as engineers, painters, and repairers. The leader's guide costs \$10.00, the game book \$6.50 and the filmstrip \$5.50. Order from the Women's Educational Equity Act Publishing Center, Education Development Center, 55 Chapel St., Newton, Mass. 02160.



This is an exciting, crucial time for the "Secret" Project...a time when results will be generated from the 1-1/2 years of groundwork that has been laid. A Task Force meeting has been set to do the work necessary to make the Vocational-Technical Education Development Foundation a functioning organization. The meeting has been set for July 21 in Dallas. This is a big step and the business people who are interested enough in voc. ed. to take the time and pay their own way to this meeting deserve a vote of appreciation.

Tangible results will also come in the form of products to be used by school districts and post-secondary institutions to spread the word about vocational education. A progress report will be given at all inservice meetings and a packet disseminated with a list of products being developed in conjunction with the "Secret" Project. School districts should receive the finished products in early fall.

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

The Foundation now has \$4,394.51 in its bank account. Most recent donations received were from Abilene ISD (Cecil Allen, vocational supervisor) - \$100; Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas - \$250; Victoria ISD - \$250; Bastrop ISD - \$125; El Paso Bowie High CVAE Co-op - \$5.00; Killeen ISD VICA Cosmetology Chapter 1256 and teacher Mrs. Alan Harrison - \$10.00. Individual contributions were made by E. D. Redding (former chair of ACTVE) and Sandra Marvel, vocational administrator of Wichita Falls ISD.

Many thanks to these supporters for their generosity!

SHORT TAKES

Congratulations to Dr. Barry Ballard, who is the new director of vocational-technical education in Arkansas. Dr. Ballard was manager of instruction at Texas State Technical Institute in Waco when he accepted his new position.

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Robert Worthington was sworn in June 24 as Education Department assistant secretary for vocational and adult education. Worthington was Utah associate commissioner of education.

**Jeanine Hicks, Editor
Lynda Permenter, Assoc. Editor**

**ACTIVE—512/475-2046
Jacinto Juarez, Chairperson
Alton D. Ice, Executive Director**