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ACTIVE news

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THE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN TEXAS

ACTIVE HAS NEW MEMBERS

The State Board of Education appointed six new members and returned three to the Advisory Council for Technical-Vocational Education. The appointments and reappointments were approved at the Board's September meeting.

Newly appointed to three-year terms upon recommendation of Governor Mark White were Bill G. Carter of Fort Worth, Robert E. Gontarek of Austin, John Grist of Dumas, Jane Sara Lack of Victoria, Mercurio Martinez, Jr. of Laredo, and Lawrence J. Wolf of Houston.

The reappointments were Dr. S. Don Rogers of Austin, Donna Price of Houston, and Dorothy R. Robinson of Palestine.

All appointments, effective immediately, are subject to final confirmation by the State Senate.

Mr. Carter was appointed to the category of "one member familiar with vocational needs and the problems of management in the state." He is owner of the Bill Carter Insurance Agency in Fort Worth. Carter has been in the insurance business for 32 years. His educational background includes study at Texas A&M University. Being past president of the Haltom-Richland Area Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Carter has varied experience in roles of leadership in different civic organizations. He also is vice president of the Vocational-Technical Education Development Foundation. He replaces Mr. E. W. Collins of Beaumont.

Appointed as "one member who is a present or recent vocational education student who is not otherwise qualified for membership" is Robert Gontarek, current vocational student at Lanier High School in Austin. Robert's list of accomplishments include Who's Who Among American High School Students, Top Five Percent of the Class of 1983, AISD Trustee's Scholarship Award, 1981, 1982, 1983. He replaces Ms. Kimberly A. Gilliam of Killeen.

Mr. John Grist was appointed to the category of "one member representing state industrial and economic development agencies." Mr. Grist is the owner of a consultant service which works with Moore County Development, Inc. He comes to the Council with a varied background. Graduating from Texas A&M University with a degree in elementary education, Mr. Grist began his professional career as a teacher. His teaching experience ranges from first grade through teaching in military schools to college teaching. He worked as a manager of the Chamber of Commerce in several locations before assuming his present occupation which he has pursued for the past thirteen years. He replaces Jon Underwood of Austin.

The category of "one member representing the State Job Training Coordinating Council" was filled with Ms. Jane Sara Lack of Victoria. Ms. Lack has an extensive educational background which includes a B.A. from the University of Michigan and a M.B.A. from Harvard Graduate School in finance. She was the 10th woman to graduate from that program. Her occupation involves long range and financial planning for non profit organizations on a volunteer basis. Ms. Lack is also active in community affairs as evidenced

by her third term of office as Councilwoman in Victoria. She replaces James Currey of Dallas.

Appointed for the category of "one member representing community or junior colleges" was Mr. Mercurio Martinez, Jr. He earned a B.A. in accounting from Saint Mary's University in San Antonio, a M.B.A. from North Texas State University, and he continued his graduate studies at Colorado State University, Springfield College, and Harvard University. His professional career includes instructor at Laredo Junior College, banking, and private business. In 1978 he was appointed by President Carter as the Regional Administrator for the Small Business Administration, covering a five state area. He then came full circle and returned to Laredo Junior College as an instructor in business administration. He has served as president of the Laredo ISD School Board, and as president of the Board of Laredo Junior College. He is also a former city council member of Laredo. Mr. Martinez replaces Dr. Jacinto Juarez of Laredo.

Dr. Larry Wolf was appointed for the category of "one member who is familiar with post secondary baccalaureate technological degree programs." Dr. Wolf received his B.S., M.S., and D.S.C. in engineering

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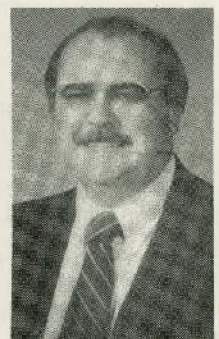
New Members



Bill G. Carter
Fort Worth



Robert Gontarek
Austin



John W. Grist
Dumas



Jane Sara Lack
Victoria



Mercurio Martinez, Jr.
Laredo



Lawrence J. Wolf
Houston

Willis Accepts ACTIVE Staff Position

Sharon Willis joined the Council staff as program officer on September 19, 1983. Ms. Willis comes to the staff from public schools. She was serving as Vocational Adjustment Coordinator for the Elgin ISD. Her educational background includes a B.S. and M.S. from Lamar University. Ms. Willis' career experience covers special education, vocational, academic, and communication.

HATS OFF TO...

Pat Turner for receiving the Distinguished Service Award from the Texas Engineering Extension Service. This statewide honor recognizes Ms. Turner's "significant contributions and outstanding administrative services." Turner, who is the Regional Center Manager of South Central Texas Regional Training Center, also received a watch with the award and 5-year service pin.

(ACTIVE New Members, Continued from Page 2)

from Washington University in St. Louis. He worked in industry until 1964 when he began teaching at Purdue University. Later he became the Dean of the College of Technology at the University of Houston. He has served in several offices for the American Society for Engineering Education. Also, he serves as Vice Chairman of the Technology Accrediting Commission of the Accrediting Board of Engineering Technology. Adding variety to his background, he once was on leave to the University of Petroleum and Minerals in Saudi Arabia. Dr. Wolf replaces H. E. McCallick of Edna.

The reappointed Council member Dr. S. Don Rogers fills the category of "one member who is currently serving as superintendent or other administrator of a local educational agency." He is Superintendent of Schools at Eanes ISD in Austin.

Donna Price of Houston was reappointed as "one member representing and familiar with vocational guidance and counseling services." She has a private practice of Vocational Counseling, Educational Testing and Career Planning.

Reappointed as "one member having special knowledge, experience, or qualifications with respect to the special education needs of physically or mentally handicapped persons," Mrs. Dorothy R. Robinson is a retired teacher and principal. She currently serves on the Palestine ISD School Board.

Reappointed Members



S. Don Rogers
Austin



Donna Price
Houston



Dorothy R. Robinson
Palestine

Texas Lands High Tech Conglomerate

Texas took a giant step into the era of high technology with the recent decision of the Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corporation (MCC) to locate in Austin.

MCC Vice President R. G. Rutishauser shared "The MCC Story" with the ACTIVE recently. Formed to meet the high technology challenge of the Japanese, MCC is a conglomerate of thirteen corporations who are pooling their research and development resources to improve U.S. capabilities in the areas of: advanced computer architecture, computer software technology, computer-aided design/computer-aided manufacturing, and advanced computer design.

The thirteen corporations that are present shareholders of MCC Corporation are: Advanced Micro Devices, Allied, Control Data, Digital Equipment, Harris, Honeywell, Martin Marietta, Mostek, Motorola, NCR, National Semiconductor, RCA, and Sperry.

There were 57 cities nationwide vying for MCC. The selection of Texas and specifically Austin was unanimous, said Rutishauser; however, the reasons varied. Two of the criteria for selection were: an environment in which there was a good deal of support between the public and private sectors and the other was access to centers for excellence.

According to Rutishauser, the leaders in the state view the upcoming industry as "information processing" and Texas is willing to make the necessary investments. Specifically, the most important investments are the University of Texas and Texas A&M University which are viewed as merging centers of excellence.

MCC will employ approximately 400 employees, stated Rutishauser. He indicated 75% of the employee composition would be scientific and computer science personnel with the other 25% being primarily technicians, programmers, and analysts. Also, he expects MCC to generate satellite activity creating even more high tech jobs.

As far as what Texas education can do to help MCC, he stressed the importance of students learning to write clearly and concisely.

PR Materials in Mail

Every school district in Texas which offers vocational education will begin receiving in late October a packet of materials for use in promoting vocational education.

The materials are:

1. Public Information Cookbook, containing detailed instructions on how to do most aspects of public information activities.
2. Vocational Trade Fair Handbook, featuring a step-by-step guide to sponsoring a trade fair to raise funds for use in promoting vocational education.
3. Calendar of Events for Vocational Education Week, offering a myriad of suggestions for promoting this very special week.
4. Vocational Educator's Self-Help Checklist, focusing on a "checklist" to be followed in student recruitment, instruction, job placement and follow-up.

The materials have been mailed to school superintendents. Vocational educators should contact their superintendents around November 1 if these materials have not filtered down to the vocational education office.

The materials are a culmination of several months work by the ACTIVE, its staff, the Vocational Technical Education Development Foundation, and a number of people at the state and local levels.

ACTIVE and Friends Say "Thanks Alton"

The ACTIVE and Friends held a banquet September 21 in Austin to honor the retirement of Alton D. Ice (right). Ice retired August 31, ending a 35-year voc-tech career, the past 14 of which were as the ACTIVE's Executive Director. Shown presenting Alton Ice with a calligraphy is Bill Jones, Kingsland, who is a former ACTIVE chairman. The calligraphy reads: "To Alton D. Ice, a real friend of youth, a service heart of gold, no problem too great, no problem too small. As a friend of vocational-technical education, you gather them all. We, the ACTIVE and Friends, Say "Thanks Alton!" We recognize and appreciate the many contributions to education and youth you have made in our interest these past 35 years. God be with you and may he keep you steadfast."



Proposed Curriculum Explained

A high school program of three courses of study -- academic, general, and vocational -- was presented to the State Board of Education for review. The intent of the proposed program is to strengthen the higher academic course, while lending flexibility to the other courses of study and upgrading vocational training for specific occupations.

Dr. Tom Anderson, Deputy Commissioner for Planning, Research, and Curriculum, Texas Education Agency, spoke to the ACTIVE at its September meeting. According to Dr. Anderson, the following has been laid out for discussion only:

Senior High - 9th-12th

ACADEMIC

4 units - English Language Arts
 (½ unit - British
 ½ unit - composition)
 3 units - Mathematics
 3 units - Science 1 - 4th unit
 3 units - Language required
 1 unit - Fine Arts
 3 units - Social Studies
 1 ½ units - Physical Education
 ½ unit - Health
 1 unit - Computer Science
 3 units - Electives
 24 units - TOTAL

GENERAL

4 units - English Language Arts
 3 units - Mathematics
 2 units - Science
 (General Physical Sci.
 General Biology) or
 Regular
 3 units - Social Studies
 1 ½ units - Physical Education
 ½ unit - Health
 7 units - Electives
 21 units - TOTAL

VOCATIONAL

4 units - English Language Arts
 2 units - Mathematics
 2 units - Science
 (General Physical
 General Biology)
 or Regular
 3 units - Social Studies
 1 ½ units - Physical Education
 ½ unit - Health
 5 units - Vocational
 3 units - Electives
 21 units - TOTAL

In addition to revamping the senior high program, more importance has been placed on developing a strong foundation at the junior high level, according to Dr. Anderson. Students who are considering an academic course of study may be encouraged to begin preparation at the junior high level. He explained the proposed curriculum as follows:

Grades - 7th and 8th

ACADEMIC

2 units - English Language Arts
 2 units - Mathematics
 2 units - Science
 2 units - Language/Fine Arts
 2 units - Social Studies
 1 unit - Physical Education
 ½ unit - Computer Literacy
 ½ unit - Electives
 12 units

GENERAL/VOCATIONAL

2 units - English Language Arts
 0-2 units - Reading (as needed)
 2 units - Mathematics
 1 unit - Science
 2 units - Social Studies
 1 unit - Physical Education
 ½ unit - Computer Literacy
 1 ½ - 3 ½ units - Electives
 (Determined by reading needs)
 12 units

Dr. Anderson placed a great deal of emphasis on the field of essential elements. "My sermon is that the essential elements may be the most important aspect of this whole effort, because that is explicitly the concepts and skills that we are going to expect kids to learn after they come out of whatever course of that 13-year pipeline we call public education."

AROUND THE CORNER



High School Conference Set

ACTIVE Plans Community Conference

The ACTIVE is co-sponsoring a series of "community conferences" to be held across Texas beginning in late October.

A total of eight conferences will be held. They are: Amarillo (Oct. 24); Wichita Falls (Nov. 17); Arlington (Nov. 1); Brownwood (Nov. 2); Brownsville (Nov. 9); Lufkin (Nov. 10); San Antonio (Nov. 16); and El Paso (Dec. 15-16).

Each of the communities involved are planning a variety of presentations and activities to address the following conference objectives:

1. assess the impact of economic trends and technological advances on job opportunities, skill requirements, and priorities for educational programs.
2. identify unique employment, economic development, training and staff development activities and linkages between the schools, industry, and other entities of each community.
3. identify innovative approaches to learning used by the schools and employers.
4. obtain testimony with regard to needs/concerns for vocational, technical, and adult education.
5. involve schools, employers and the community in assessing student career interests, determining employment trends, available training resources, and the effectiveness of student placements in meaningful jobs.

For more information about a conference in your area, contact the ACTIVE Office for times and locations.

**The Advisory Council for Technical-
Vocational Education in Texas**
P. O. Box 1886
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The American Vocational Association is sponsoring an action-oriented 24-hour conference on "Improving Vocational Education in America's Comprehensive High School." The conference takes place October 20-21 at the Wyndham Hotel in Austin.

The purpose of the workshop is to allow participants to explore problems and issues confronting vocational education, look at innovative approaches and proposed solutions, and develop recommendations for action.

Local school systems seeking to pursue excellence in both their academic and vocational programs are encouraged to bring a team to the conference, composed of school principals, local vocational administrators, superintendents, school board members and advisory committee members. The meeting can provide a means to reach some agreements on improving vocational education in your school system.

Registration starts at 10 a.m. on October 20. The opening general session starts at 1 p.m. The registration fee for AVA members is \$75. For non-members, it is \$120. For "school system teams" of 3 or more people, the registration fee is \$50 each. For more information, contact Judith Hetherly (512)834-4277.

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