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ACTIVE news

The Advisory Council For Technical-Vocational Education In Texas



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STATEWIDE EMPLOYER SURVEY PLANNED

An assessment of employer views on requirements for entry level jobs will be the target of a statewide survey.

The Advisory Council for Technical-Vocational Education in Texas will begin mailing questionnaires in the next few weeks to 5,000 employers across the state. The study will focus on entry level jobs which do not require advanced or specialized training other than that which can be acquired at the high school level or through manpower programs.

Objectives of the study include:

1. What knowledge, skills, and attitudes are required by employers for entry level positions;
2. A general appraisal of the caliber of applicants employers are getting from our education and manpower programs; and
3. The general direction employers believe education and manpower programs should take in preparing youth and adults for work.

Several state agencies, groups, and organizations are assisting the Council in this undertaking; however, the survey's success is dependent upon a willingness on the part of employers to participate.

March is the target month for completion of the survey. The results will be made available to the planners and managers of education and manpower programs as well as the State Legislature and the general public.

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EMPLOYMENT PATTERNS OF GRADUATES AND DROPOUTS

In 1973, more than three million young people

graduated from our nation's high schools while another 785,000 dropped out short of a high school diploma, according to a recently published Bureau of Labor Statistics' Special Labor Force Report.

The report indicates that of the three million graduates, 1.4 million enrolled in college and 1.3 million joined the labor force.

Of the graduates entering the labor force, 1.1 million were employed in October 1973 while 160,000 were looking for jobs. Their jobless rate, at 12.3 percent, was about the same as that of a comparable group of graduates the previous year.

The 785,000 dropouts in 1973 was about the same total as the previous year. About 64 percent of the 1973 dropouts were in the labor force with the jobless rate among this group standing at 21% as of October 1973.

The number of 1973 high school graduates going on to college was comparable to the year before, but was sharply lower than enrollment rates of the late 1960's. "Factors contributing to the overall decline in college enrollments may be the increase in tuition and related costs in past years, and the greater difficulty young college graduates have had in finding suitable jobs in recent years," the report reveals.

Of the 1973 graduates not in the labor force, about a third of those not enrolling in college and a tenth of the 1972-73 dropouts were in special schools, such as trade and business schools.

Copies of "Special Labor Force Report 168, Employment of High School Graduates and Dropouts October 1973" are available while the supply lasts from any DOL office or by writing the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, D. C., 20212.

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CLOSER EDUCATION/WORK RELATIONSHIP

Several suggestions as to how the "world of education might be better attuned to the work-a-day life" are expected to show up in President Ford's State of the Union message slated for mid-January.

In early December, President Ford was presented with a list of "tentative proposals" by three cabinet members, one of which was HEW Secretary Casper Weinberger.

One of the suggestions made to President Ford focuses on "competency-based education."

Weinberger says the government is interested in a plan to "break down the barriers that now exist between the educational specialists who run the schools and the corporations and unions who are concerned with jobs in the real world."

Many of the people running our schools have not had experience in the world's of business or labor and there hasn't been any feeling that it was necessary for a school to fit a graduate for any specific kind of work or career or job, says Weinberger.

Weinberger says the new government effort would use "existing programs" by directing more effort toward research and development into competency-based education, "a form of education in which we try to develop particular skills and work toward credentials rather than diplomas as levels of skill and proficiency are obtained in specific kinds of work, and also to combine some real work experience with schools."

President Ford has expressed a "particular interest" in having the National Institute of Education devote some time and resources to this field. The administration will choose a new NIE Director "with this very specifically in mind," Weinberger said.

The primary role of the Federal government will be in providing leadership. The design and implementation of any programs will probably be the responsibility of local officials, says Weinberger.

Weinberger denies that the administration would be trying to turn liberal arts schools into vocational schools.

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VOCATIONAL EDUCATION GRADUATES STUDIED

Only 20 percent of a nationwide sample of recent vocational education graduates trained as accountants, computer programmers and electronics technicians found jobs for which they were trained, a new study financed by the National Institute of Education shows.

The remaining 80 percent took jobs as low-paid clerks or in unrelated work.

Graduates in three programs where less training was required--cosmetology, dental assistant and secretarial--fared better, with 80 percent finding related work. But salaries for these positions were so low--often beneath the Federal minimum wage--that study director Wellford Wilms questioned whether the training was worth the cost.

The graduates of both public and proprietary vocational schools had about the same poor luck in job hunting, said Wilms. The \$159,000 study was based on a random sample of 2,270 graduates of 50 schools in the Boston, San Francisco, Chicago and Miami metropolitan areas.

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VOCATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK February 9-15

"Vocational Education for Productive Careers" will be the theme of the 8th Annual Vocational Education Week which will be observed nationwide February 9-15.

Vocational educators are encouraged to use the week to focus more attention on the courses and programs available through their local school districts.

To assist local vocational educators in the promotion of vocational education, the Advisory Council has available, free of charge, a 22' x 17' color poster which was developed in early 1974. The poster reads, "80% of Tomorrow's Jobs Will Require Vocational or Technical Training." Quantities of up to 200 per order are available from the Council office.

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TSTI DESIGNATED NUCLEAR TRAINING CENTER

J. H. Kultgen, Chairman of the Texas State

Technical Institute Board of Regents, announced recently that TSTI has been designated officially as a Regional Center for Nuclear Education and Training by the Southern Interstate Nuclear Board.

The functions of the Center will be to provide assistance to public utilities and other nuclear-related industries and to schools and colleges that conduct training programs for nuclear technicians. The Center will operate in close coordination with TSTI's ongoing technician training programs.

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DECA CONFERENCE IN HOUSTON

DECA DYNAMICS was the name chosen by distributive education club members from 23 Houston school district high schools for the annual DECA City Conference held recently at Kashmere High School.

An estimated 1,000 DE students participated in the conference which featured as keynote speaker Dr. Charlie Hennigan. An ex-Houston Oiler great and current president of Education Achievement Corporation, Hennigan spoke of "image-building."

The conference featured 73 different sessions with each one sponsored by a school DECA Chapter. These sessions ranged from focusing on careers in DE, to how to get involved in research projects and other competitive events, to special interest groups such as "Women in Business."

In addition to the DECA student chapters sponsoring sessions, an assortment of businesses in the Houston community also sponsored sessions to meet and exchange views with their DE trainees.

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ROBINSON SERVES ON EVALUATION TEAM

Dorothy R. Robinson, vice-chairman of the Advisory Council for Technical-Vocational Education in Texas, recently served on an evaluation team for the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education.

Mrs. Robinson served on the team as they evaluated the Teacher Training Program at Paine College in Augusta Georgia.

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CAREER COUNSELING FILMS AVAILABLE

The Department of Occupational Education and Technology of the Texas Education Agency has received and distributed 54 sets of Career Counseling films produced under contract for the Department of Defense.

Each film set includes a total of 13 films-- 14 to 16 minutes in length. The titles are as follows:

- "Is a Career as Technician for you?"
- "Is a Career in the Health Services for you?"
- "Is a Sales Career for you?"
- "Is a Career in Machining for you?"
- "Is a Career in the Service Industries for you?"
- "Is a Career in Government for you?"
- "Is a Career in Radio or Television for you?"
- "Is a Career in Finance Insurance or Real Estate for you?"
- "Is a Career in Electronics Manufacturing for you?"
- "Is a Career in Clerical Work for you?"
- "Is a Career in the Professions for you?"
- "Is a Career in Management for you?"

A set of the above titled films have been placed in each Education Service Center.

The Department of Occupational Education and Technology encourages the use of these films for exploration of broad occupational areas.

For use of these films, contact your nearest Education Service Center.

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CE RESOURCES

The ERIC Clearinghouse for Career Education at Northern Illinois University has issued five bibliographies on career education.

Topics now available include: **GENERAL REFE**
General Refer

ence Sources on Career Education; Policy and Administration of Career Education; Career Education Elementary Level; Career Education Intermediate Level; and Career Education Secondary Level.

To use ERIC for a resource search, there's a \$5 charge per inquiry. To obtain the already issued bibliographies, or to get on the ERIC mailing list for future publications, write: ERIC/CICE, 204 Gabel Hall, Northern Illinois University, De Kalb, Illinois, 60115.

Also, to obtain information on the availability of a slide presentation explaining ERIC's operation, write: ERIC, National Institute of Education, Washington, D.C., 20208.

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LABOR-HEW BILL SIGNED

President Ford signed into law December 7 the \$33 billion FY 1975 Labor-HEW appropriation bill.

The bill includes \$2.4 billion for the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA), and nearly \$476 million for programs under Parts B, C, F and H of the Vocational Education Act.

Included in the vocational appropriations are \$438.9 million for Parts B and C and \$35.9 million for consumer and homemaking programs under Part F. Another \$9.8 million is appropriated for work study programs under Part H.

For programs authorized by the Education Professions Development Act, the bill provides just over \$19 million.

The bill also appropriates \$70 million for the National Institute of Education.

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A reminder that Vocational Education Week is February 9-15, 1975. See story page 2.

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