

JUL 11 1978

ACTIVE news

The Advisory Council For Technical-Vocational Education In Texas



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Vol. IX, Number 5, May 1978

IS THERE MORE TO VOC/ED THAN A JOB?

How much did a vocational program help a student prepare for the first job after high school? To learn by doing? To explore career opportunities? To get along with other persons? To understand the student's own interests, abilities, and potential? To develop decision-making skills? To become an effective and responsible citizen?

A statewide "sample" of more than 16,000 vocational students who were seniors in the 1972-73 school year pondered such questions this month. Hopefully, between 4,000 and 5,000 will respond.

The range of possible answers to the above questions is "very helpful," "some help," "don't know," "very little help," to "no help at all."

Whatever the evaluation, their answers will provide a base for improvements in the quality and accessibility of vocational education in the public schools of Texas.

WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT?

Another question in the survey instrument being used by the Council bears on content. After five years out, what area would the student like most to have more training if he or she were back in high school?

The range of possible answers includes not only the basics of reading, writing, and mathematics; but also job skills, career exploration, knowing how our economy works, understanding government and politics; and dealing with things like buying a car or a home, airline schedules, job applications, and income tax returns.

The survey also tries to identify vocational subjects the former students now wish they had taken, but which were not chosen or not even offered in 1972-73.

Other items in the questionnaire seek to measure how well actual experience has matched the students' original hopes and expectations; whether their current activities support their chosen careers; and what additional formal education or training they think their careers will require in their lifetimes.

OVERKILL IN EVALUATION

The federal Vocational Education Amendments Act of 1976 contains multiple requirements for data collection, accountability, and evaluations. It has been called an "overkill" in mandated measurements.

The Texas Council's survey instrument seeks to avoid duplicating information available from other surveys and sources. Hence, it contains no questions about whether the former student found a job for which trained or in a related occupation; wages earned; or the extent of employer satisfaction with students' training.

Instead, the Council's questionnaire, although designed to help fulfill its legal responsibility to evaluate vocational programs in Texas, is closer to the viewpoint of Dr. Ann M. Martin, Associate Commissioner for Occupational and Adult Education in the U. S. Office of Education.

LONG RANGE PERSPECTIVES

"...the percentage of trainees placed, or the degree to which those who are placed are satisfied at the outset, may have little to do with the ultimate satisfaction and productivity of a given worker," she said to the Sixth Annual Cornell Seminar for Directors of Occupational Education at Ithaca, N. Y., in January of this year.

"...the evaluation of vocational education

must begin to take into account the adaptation and satisfaction with work that evolves over time," she said.

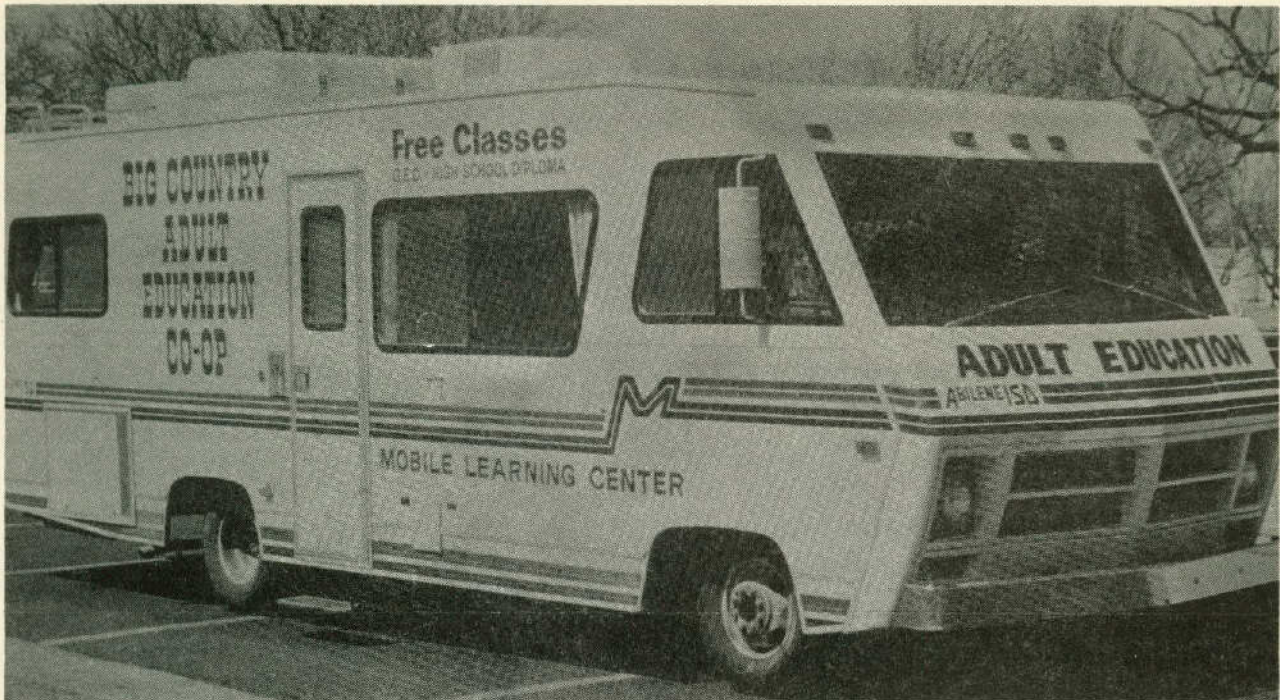
The relationship of vocational education to creative, self-fulfilling life styles; and the discovery of any unmet needs among former vocational students, are among the Texas survey's primary purposes.

Although results will be shared with the public generally, the Council's main objective is to obtain information of use to vocational teachers, vocational administrators, school superintendents, and the State Board of Education in improving the quality of programs.

ACTIVE CHAIRMAN ON THE MOVE

On May 23, 1978, Mrs. Dorothy Robinson, Chairman ACTIVE will address the CBHS graduating class at 7:00 p.m. in Abilene. Several members of the Council plan to attend this commemorative event. Mrs. Robinson has also accepted an invitation to participate in the 24th Annual Security Seminar to be held at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, June 5-9, 1978. The seminar provides students an opportunity to exchange views on a wide range of issues related to the well being and security of the country with a broadly representative group of American citizens.

ADULT EDUCATION ON WHEELS



Abilene's long-touted mobile counseling/teaching/assessment center is a reality! Morris Foster, Director of Adult Education for the Abilene Co-op, tells us that the van soon will be outfitted with fully equipped study carrels, APL curriculum modules, videotape recording equipment and lots more features designed to serve the counties of Callahan, Comanche, Eastland, Shackelford, Stephens and Taylor.

The mobile van which is every bit as comfortable and functional as it is sumptuous, was specially made for Abilene's purposes

and paid for 100% by private donations from local businesses and industries. It will serve the outlying communities which heretofore had not been physically able to take advantage of the many services offered by Abilene's Adult Education Cooperative (including the APL curriculum, the GED, and the CBHSD). As well as offering needed educational resources and programs, the mobile learning center offers a comfortable, attractive, creative learning environment. That combination, with the addition of the competency of Morris and his excellent staff, should all make a progressive dream an unqualified success in time.

ADULTS SEEK MORE EDUCATION

Of the U. S. population over age 35, 1.8% or 1.6 million persons were enrolled in school as of October 1976, according to a recent study by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The figure reflected an increase of 100,000 adults-at-study over a year earlier. Nearly all of the increase was among unmarried white women who were self-supporting and apparently regarded additional education as necessary for career development.

Out of the total 1.6 million persons in school, 1.2 million were enrolled in college degree programs; 350,000 were acquiring or upgrading occupational skills in trade and vocational schools; and 66,000 were seeking elementary or high school certificates.

One-fourth of the trade and vocational students were 55 years and older, compared to only one-tenth of those in academic programs within that age bracket. For a free copy of the report of the growing demand in adult education, write for Labor Force Special Report No. 204, "Going Back to School at 35 and over," from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington, D. C. 20212.

Persons enrolled in schools/colleges for self-improvement or recreational purposes were not counted in the Bureau's analysis.

EL PASO AND YSLETA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Dan Schulte, Alton Ice & Richard Woods

The First Annual Banquet of the Placement Committee for the El Paso and Ysleta Public Schools was recently held in El Paso, Texas. Mr. Alton Ice delivered the keynote address to the business and industry representatives in attendance.

Mr. Ice discussed the future of Vocational Education in the state, with emphasis on its effect on the business and industry community.

The Placement Committee, composed of business leaders in the El Paso area, is chaired by Mr. Mark Gossett, Parts Manager of Casa Ford. The committee has been a two-year effort by Richard Woods, Vocational Placement Counselor for the El Paso Public Schools, and Dan Schulte, Vocational Placement Coordinator for Ysleta Public Schools; with the support of the National Alliance of Businessmen, Jack Hamilton, Metro Director. To our knowledge this is a first for the state of Texas.

The two school districts are finding the efforts of the Placement Committee helpful in their efforts to better explain the vocational programs to the community and the placement of more graduates on the job.

U OF H DEDICATE NEW BUILDING

The University of Houston dedicated a new College of Technology Building, April 23, 1978, says Dean H. E. McCallick, Head of the School of Technology.

Lt. Governor Bill Hobby and Senator Chet Brooks were the speakers at this special occasion. Lt. Governor Hobby stated that the dedication of the building greatly expanded the capabilities of one of the University of Houston's original teaching units, a component with strong ties to area industry and a noteworthy record of accomplishments now well recognized throughout the United States and much of the world; and these capabilities lie in the area of technological education.

Senator Brooks stated that the College is organized for today, and for tomorrow, in departments of business technology, civil

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technology, electrical-electronics technology, mechanical technology and technical education. Its mission includes not only the best of classroom and laboratory instruction for regularly enrolled students, but constant updating and specialized in-plant courses, institutes both in the U. S. and abroad, and a range of workshops on current problems.

AIR FORCE MAKES VOCATIONAL COURSES AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Eight new Air Force vocational-technical courses are now available to civilian schools, the Air Force Association has announced.

The courses are available through the National Laboratory for the Advancement of Education, an affiliate of the nonprofit Aerospace Education Foundation. The new courses bring the total number available to 31. All are highly visual, making use of videotapes, slides and films. Some are self-paced, allowing teachers to devote more attention to students who need extra help. The courses are available to schools at cost.

Four of the new courses are in the metals technology field: welding; heat treatment and electroplating of metals; nondestruc-

tive inspection techniques; and high reliability soldering. Two of the courses are in weather technology: weather observation and weather forecasting. The remaining courses are fire fighting and rubber products repair.

More than 700 schools have purchased the course materials over the past five years, according to foundation President Dr. William Ramsey. Topics range from automobile principles, to cooking and baking, to academic counseling.

For more information, write the Air Force Association, 1750 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D. C. 20006.

SUB-COMMITTEE PLANS HEARINGS

The House of Representatives Sub-Committee on Curriculum Reform plans to conduct six Regional Hearings around the State to give citizens an opportunity for input and suggestions for the committee in their deliberation of changes in school curriculums.

Information, dates and locations will be forthcoming in the near future, says Rick Fritts, Committee Clerk. Representative Wilhelmina Delco is Chairman.

The hearings will be conducted at the end of May through July.

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