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ACTIVE news



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THE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN TEXAS

ACTIVE HAS NEW MEMBERS



Lupe Anguiano



Janie West Cotton



T.R. Jackson



Lane Murray



Jessie Lee Sharpley

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

Newly appointed to three-year terms upon recommendation of Governor Bill Clements were T. R. Jackson of Beesley, Mrs. Jessie Lee Sharpley of Lubbock, Dr. Lane Murray of Huntsville, Dr. Janie West Cotton of Houston, and Lupe Anguiano of San Antonio.

The reappointments were Dr. Robert Hunter of Abilene, Edith Patterson of Houston and Gay Sweet of San Antonio.

All appointments, effective immediate-

ly, are subject to final confirmation by the State Senate.

Mr. Jackson was appointed for the category of "one member who is currently serving on a local school board." He is owner and operator of Jackson Brothers Construction, Inc. and Day and Night Concrete Construction, Inc. He has also been a farmer and rancher for 30 years. Mr. Jackson completed Construction, Engineering School during military service and attended Veteran Training School in Industrial Education. He has been president of the Kendleton ISD since 1969 and president of the Kendleton-Prude Water and Sewer Corporation since 1974. He replaces Mr. Clemente Garcia of Corpus Christi.

Appointed for the category of "one member who is familiar with the programs of teachers' training for technical-vocational teachers in the post-secondary institutions," is Dr. Cotton, who replaces Mr. Doyel Chandler of Kirbyville. She is Head of the Home Economics Department of Texas Southern University. She earned a B.S. Degree from TSU, an M.S. from Kansas State, and Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. She began teaching in 1945 and assumed her present position in 1971.

Mrs. Jessie Lee Sharpley was appointed for the category of "one member representing proprietary vocational-technical schools of the state." She is owner and operator of Jessie Lee's Hair Design, which has trained 1,650 students since 1956. Mrs. Sharpley attended Texas Tech two-and-one-half years and graduated from Arlene's Beauty School in Lubbock. She has won numerous awards and is nationally recognized in the field of Cosmetology. She replaces Bill Elkins of Dallas.

Appointed for the category of "one member representing state correctional institutions," is Dr. Murray, who is Director of the Department of Education and Superin-

tendent of Schools of the Windham School District, Department of Corrections. She earned a B.A. from Texas Tech, a Masters from Sam Houston, and a Ph.D. from the University of Houston. Dr. Murray also teaches Criminal Justice at Sam Houston University. She replaces Maxia Farris of Huntsville.

Ms. Anguiano was appointed for the category of "one member who is a woman with a background and experience in employment and training programs; and who is knowledgeable with respect to the special experiences and problems of sex discrimination in job training and employment, of sex stereotyping in vocational education, and of discrimination in job training and employment against women who are members of minority groups." She is founder and president of the National Women's Employment and Education, Inc. in San Antonio. One of the programs Ms. Anguiano administers is the "National Low Income Women's Employment Program," which serves low income women, especially those who are heads of households. She earned a M.A. Degree from Antioch University. Ms. Anguiano replaces Ruth Ellinger of Austin.

Productivity . . . A Major Problem

(Editor's Note: Advisory Council members heard a most interesting presentation on productivity at the last Council meeting in Houston. We thought some of the most pertinent points should be shared with our readers. Dr. Dennis Sullivan, Vice President of Government Services at the American Productivity in Houston was the speaker. The Center was started three years ago by Dr. C. Grayson Jackson, formerly the dean of the SMU School of Business. Dr. Grayson believes that improving productivity in every sector of the U.S. economy is one of the key solutions to addressing the problems of inflation and energy dependence within the U.S. He believed this strongly enough that he resigned his position at SMU and sought the backing of various firms to establish a Center that would work on the problem of improving productivity in this country. He was successful in that endeavor and now has 220 firms, foundations or individuals who have contributed to the support of the Center. Room will not permit the inclusion of the full text of Sullivan's presentation, but it may be obtained by contacting Jeanine Hicks, ACTIVE, Box 1886, Austin 78767.)

Dr. Sullivan began by expressing his pleasure at being able to speak to the Advisory Council, "because we at the Center have a very strong concern about the lack of a demonstrated link between vocational and technical education and productivity improvement in the various industries that you support with your graduates." He said

that when asked about the value of vo-tech education, "we have come up with surrogate measurements of the effectiveness and efficiency of these programs. We have failed in the education community to demonstrate as concretely as we should the positive benefits of our programs -- particularly as the economic pie in this country shrinks -- and it is shrinking. All of our programs -- social, educational, etc. -- are coming under attack with respect to their value. I think we have failed in a number of programs -- not just vocational education programs -- to adequately demonstrate that we have met the challenge -- that we have in fact produced some real social benefits."

Dr. Sullivan then addressed what he considered one of the major problems in the country -- productivity -- or the lack thereof. "Productivity in the United States is a measurement of just how healthy our economy is." He explained that in the past, beginning with World War II up until 1967, productivity in the U.S. grew at a rate of 3.3 percent annually. Since that time, it has dropped to a negative .9 and

may go as low as a negative 2-1/2 percent in 1980.

"Every major developed country in this world at the present time is growing at a faster rate than the United States." As examples, he said Japan is growing at a rate of about 7-1/2 percent a year and Germany in excess of 5 percent. Dr. Sullivan said that even though we are the most productive nation in the world right now, "sometime between now and the end of the 1980's, we will be passed by five or six other countries in terms of overall economic growth. We will no longer be the most productive nation in the world...we are about to give up our economic superiority to Canada, France, West Germany and Japan."

Dr. Sullivan made the point that in personal economic terms, if productivity had continued to grow at 3.3 percent per year, the average family would have taken home about \$3,500 more in cash last year. "The decline we see this year means that the average family of four will take home about \$4,500 less than they would have, had productivity continued to grow. Our gross national product would be on the border of \$200 billion higher than it is right now," Dr. Sullivan said.

He then addressed the question of why this problem exists. He said there are lists and lists of possible reasons, and "there is a certain amount of agreement on the major factors that have had an impact on the economy of the U.S., but we can't assign specific percentages to these. For example, I will tell you that government regulations have had a negative impact on productivity, but I can't tell you that it was 3 or 4 or 10 percent."

Dr. Sullivan said investments is another problem area. "Businesses are reluctant to invest in new plants and new equipment because of the uncertain economic climate in the country, the fluctuations in the

interest rates and government policies. These factors make it unattractive for corporations to make the types of long term commitments that are necessary for improvements in productivity.

"We don't invest or save as a nation," Dr. Sullivan continued. "Americans bank about 3 percent of our national gross national product each year as compared to the Japanese, who bank 26 percent of theirs." He also cited the fact that the U.S. spends only 2.2 percent of our gross national product on research and development, while other countries spend much more on R&D.

"We have in this country developed over the last 15 or 20 years a set of disincentives to work," Dr. Sullivan said. "There is a very strong disincentive for people that are below the economic scale to go to work because it costs them money."

Another factor cited by Dr. Sullivan in the decline of productivity is the "contentious labor-management relations" in this country. "Each party is out to get all it can and to hell with the other bargainers." He explained that in more productive countries, this attitude does not exist. The attitude is one of a more cooperative effort -- working together for what is best for the company and the worker. "We have to reduce the amount of contention that exists between labor and management when it comes to determining the economic policies in a particular industry."

In discussing possible solutions and the role vocational-technical education can play, "we need to begin to introduce to people to their role in making this nation a more productive entity while they are still in the education setting. They must learn that their role is to do their job as efficiently and effectively as they can and this will be to their benefit as well as the company's."

HERE AND THERE

"INDUSTRY SPEAKS" PROCEEDINGS AVAILABLE -- The proceedings from the Statewide Conference in February on "Business and Industry Speak, Education Listens and Decision Makers Respond" are now available from the ACTIVE Office. There is much good information contained in this publication on the job outlook for the

1980's. Many outstanding industry representatives spoke in their respective occupational seminars on employment requirements for the future and what will be expected of employees. To receive a free copy, write Jeanine Hicks, ACTIVE, Box 1886, Austin, TX 78746.

Billy McLendon Retires



B.L. McLendon accepts plaque of appreciation from Houston ISD Vocational Administrator and ACTIVE member Edith Patterson.

B. L. McLendon, Deputy Superintendent for Occupational and Continuing Education, Houston ISD, took medical retirement August 31, 1980. During his 10 years of administering HISD vocational education programs, the High School for Health Professions, Barbara Jordan High School for Careers and Milby Vocational Center were planned, constructed and opened. During 1979-80, over 76,000 students in HISD were enrolled in vocational programs, making it the largest in Texas. Best wishes to a great vocational educator. You'll be missed.

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