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# NEWS LINE

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## State Board of Education Approves Master Plan, Textbooks, Certification, and Discusses List of Priority Occupations

The State Board of Education — at its November 11 meeting in Austin — acted on several vocational education items. Among actions taken by the Board — which oversees grades K-12 — were:

**•Master Plan Update.** Approved the annual update of the five-year Master Plan for Vocational Education in Texas. The Master Plan — initially adopted in 1987 as a requirement of state education reforms — contains short- and long-term goals for elementary/secondary education, higher education, and an integrated delivery system. (See actions of Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on page 2 for changes impacting higher education.)

The secondary section was updated to

reflect the strengthening of Coordinated Vocational-Academic Education — which serves at-risk students — at grades 7-8 and 9-12; the incorporation of applied math instructional units into existing vocational and math courses; and the strengthening of teacher efforts to assist students in finding employment related to their training.

Changes to the integrated delivery system section — originally named "regional planning" — reflect the development of rules, identified multi-agency roles, initiatives, and revised time frames to implement an integrated delivery system that is tied to 24 vocational-technical service delivery regions. This section of

the Master Plan was developed jointly by the State Board, Coordinating Board, and Texas Department of Commerce;

**•Life Management Skills.** Adopted four textbooks for local schools to choose from in the teaching of the Life Management Skills Course at grades 7-8. The LMS Course — which school districts must make available to their student bodies — is designed to teach students skills related to money management, nutrition, proper grooming, peer and family relationships, and career planning. The textbooks will be available for the 1990-91 school year;

**•High School Home Economics.** Adopted 23 textbooks for high school home economics courses. These textbooks will be available starting with the 1990-91 school year. Courses benefitting from the textbooks include Comprehensive Home Economics; Individual and Family Life; Parenting and Child Development; Management Goals for Living; Consumer and Family Economics; Food Science and Nutrition; Family and Individual Development. (See SBOE Actions on page 2.)

## T/COVE Conducting Evaluation Study to Measure Impact of Master Plan

The Texas Council on Vocational Education — in response to a request by the State Board of Education to measure the impact of the *Master Plan for Vocational Education* on local schools — will be conducting surveys and on-site visits of school districts and community colleges during January and February, said Joe Pentony, Houston, Chairman of the Council's Evaluation Committee.

The State Board has asked the Council to:

- Assess the extent to which the reforms articulated in the Master Plan are accomplishing their intended purposes; and
- Assess the impact of vocational education restructuring on local education agencies resulting from the implementation of the Master Plan.

The Council will be looking at the capacity of schools (e.g., size, location, finances, community support) to carry out the Master Plan's provisions; at enrollment and

teacher assignment patterns; at pre- and inservice training requirements; at equipment requirement changes; at any modifications to facilities; and any changes in funding patterns.

Questionnaires will be mailed to a stratified random sample of school districts and to all postsecondary institutions. At least five school districts will be selected for on-site studies. Nearby community colleges will also be visited. Additionally, educators attending Texas Education Agency sponsored workshops during January will also be asked to complete "opinion" surveys, said Lynda Rife, Council staff project coordinator.

The Council will assimilate the information gathered through questionnaires and on-site visits — as well as information gathered from the Texas Education Agency — into a report and recommendations to be submitted to the State Board of Education in April 1990.

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# Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Approves Master Plan, New Degrees, Admissions Rule Changes

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board — at its October 27 meeting in Austin — acted on or discussed several agenda items impacting occupational education at the postsecondary level.

•**Master Plan Update.** Approved annual updates of the higher education and integrated delivery system sections of the five-year Master Plan for Vocational Education in Texas. The higher education section was redesigned. The original directives — approved in 1987 — have been maintained; however, the reform contains six instead of 12 goals, with many original goals now among more clearly defined and labeled "strategies" that have been added along with more concise time frames to make the higher education section a clear, useful, and accountable guide for effective organization, management, and coordination of programs and training efforts. The integrated delivery system section — developed by the State Board of Education, Coordinating Board,

*Higher Education Section of Master Plan Undergoes Format Change*

and Texas Department of Commerce — contains numerous changes to reflect multi-agency and level coordination to develop a skilled labor force within 24 vocational-technical service delivery regions;

•**New Associate Degrees.** Approved two new Associate of Applied Science degree programs. A degree program in "Substance Abuse Counseling" was approved for Amarillo College, while Austin Community College was granted a degree program in "Commercial Music Management";

•**Program Phase-Out.** Received a status report on the phasing out of technical-vocational associate degree and certificate programs offered by four-year institutions. Coordinating Board rules emphasize that one- and two-year programs should be delivered by community/junior colleges whenever feasible. Senior institutions have the option of phasing out, transferring to community colleges, eliminating, converting associate level degrees — with Coordinating Board approval — to four-year baccalaureate programs, or continuing them consistent with provisions governing community colleges and the Texas State Technical Institute System. In 1976, 14 senior institutions offered a total of 86 associate degree programs. Seven institutions have since com-

pletely phased out all technical-vocational programs. The remaining institutions will receive visits during 1989-90 by the Coordinating Board to determine appropriate action;

•**Proprietary School Degrees.** Received a status report on the regulation of proprietary schools that offer associate degree programs. The State Board of Education — which regulates proprietary schools — has adopted rules permitting proprietary schools — offering associate degrees prior to September 1, 1989 — to (See Coordinating Board on page 4.)

## Overall Enrollment Increases at Texas Community Colleges

Enrollment is up at 37 of the 49 public community college districts, with a net increase of 14,116 students or 4.1 percent, according to Fall 1989 headcount figures released by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Public Community colleges had a combined preliminary fall enrollment of 358,315, up from 344,199 a year ago. The Houston Community College District reported the largest increase in the number of students with 2,450. HCC's total enrollment is 26,255.

The Dallas County Community College District — with its seven campuses — showed an increase of 2,312 students and continues by far to be the state's largest community college system with 52,327 enrollees. The Alamo Community College District experienced a decline of 1,816 students, but still ranks second in overall community college enrollments with 30,228.

The Texas State Technical Institute's four campuses reported a combined loss of 158 students, or 1.9 percent. TSTI's Fall 1989 enrollment was 8,222 students.

The state's three independent community colleges — which total a combined 1,321 students for this fall — experienced a 1.3 percent enrollment decrease from last year.

Texas public senior colleges and universities enrolled 399,875 students in the fall of 1989, a 3.7 percent increase over a year ago. Independent senior colleges and universities experienced a 3.6 percent enrollment increase, rising to 83,491 students.

## State Board Actions (continued from page 1)

vidual Health; Apparel; and Housing, Design, and Furnishings;

•**Teacher Certification.** Approved a rule change that establishes one credential for teaching office education courses. The new rule will impact individuals seeking or completing certification after September 1, 1991. Certificates for non-degreed individuals will be eliminated. Requirements for the one credential include a bachelor's degree with a major in business/office education or a minor related to the course to be taught, wage earning experience or completion of an internship, and completion of prescribed professional development course work and activities;

•**Priority Occupations.** Discussed a preliminary list of priority occupations — a requirement of 1984 education reforms — for use at the state and local levels, with regional flexibility, in planning vocational-technical programs. The list — developed by the State Occupational Information Coordinating Committee in consultation with the Texas Employment Commission and other sources

— will be reviewed by a 30-member panel of labor market experts during November/December. Final Board approval is scheduled for January. The first list of priority occupations was approved in 1988, with updates scheduled annually;

•**Proprietary Schools.** Approved comprehensive rule changes regulating proprietary schools. The changes — asked for and supported by the private school industry — are designed to broaden and improve the oversight, monitoring, and performance of proprietary schools and the students who attend them.

**Plan To Attend the February 9 Vocational Education Awards Banquet in Austin**

## Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee Passes Bill To Reauthorize '84 Carl D. Perkins Vocational Education Act

The U.S. Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee — chaired by Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-MA) — passed its version of the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Education Act reauthorization on November 2.

Full Senate action on the measure — S.B. 1109 by Sen. Claiborne Pell (D-RI) — could occur prior to the new year depending upon when the Senate decides to break for the Christmas holidays. Whenever final action occurs, the Senate must work out its differences with the House, which passed a new voc bill last May 9. The Perkins Act, passed in 1984, expires in 1990.

Key features of the Senate bill are:

•**\$1.5 Billion Level.** Authorizes up to \$1.5 billion in federal funds to support and improve voc ed throughout the nation. Texas receives about \$60 million per year of the \$918 appropriated under current law;

•**State Administration.** Allows 20 percent of state's allocation for state administration (5%) and state programs/leadership (15%). Examples of state programs/leadership are: training and retraining for vocational personnel; curriculum development; support for student organizations; and leadership to include monitoring, evaluation, de-

velopment of performance standards, and promoting public/private sector linkages.

The state is required to reserve 20 percent of funds reserved for administration and programs/leadership for sex equity;

•**Tech-Prep.** Targets five percent of state's allocation for tech prep programs (e.g., 2+2 programs linking last two years of high school with either postsecondary education or apprenticeship training);

•**Local Programs.** Targets 75 percent of state's allocation to support local programs. The secondary level can receive no more than 75 percent nor less than 65 percent of these funds, with the postsecondary level receiving either a 25/35 percent split. Currently, the dollar split between the secondary and postsecondary levels is roughly 60/40, with school districts getting the larger amount.

The state can reserve up to 20 percent of the secondary level amount — which must be matched by state or private sources — to target areas with high dropout or crime rates or high concentrations of poverty. Dollars flowing to school districts will be based on the number of economically disadvantaged (Chapter 1) students;

•**School District Uses.** Targets funds to serve four groups: the economically disadvantaged, the disabled, the limited English proficient, and men and women training in non-traditional occupations. Funds can be used to benefit regular students as long as these four groups are served first.

Requires funds to be used for: integration of academic and voc ed; program improvement; guidance and counseling; and a special populations coordinator.

The minimum federal grant to a school district is set at \$25,000. Districts that would receive less than this amount would have to form a consortia with other districts or a regional provider in order to receive funds. Of the 955 school districts offering voc ed in Texas, 83 percent received less than \$25,000 for the current school year;

•**Postsecondary Priorities.** Priorities set for funds flowing to postsecondary level: displaced and single parents; programs for economically disadvantaged, limited English proficient, handicapped, and traditionally underserved; apprenticeship programs; and programs tied to economic development of the state;

•**State Plan.** Requires the development of a State Plan for Vocational Education, which shall include — among other requirements — assurances that performance measures (standards) for vocational education will be developed;

•**State Council.** Requires a State Council on Vocational Education as a condition to receive federal voc ed dollars. The Council will advise the State Board of Education on the development of the State Plan. The Council will also have numerous evaluation responsibilities, and would be charged with recommending incentives to create greater coordination between voc ed and the Job Training Partnership Act delivery systems.

## Senate Confirms Brand As Assistant Secretary

Betsy Brand — former staff aide to Dan Quayle — was confirmed November 3 by the Senate as the U.S. Department of Education's Assistant Secretary of Education for Vocational and Adult Education. She was staff director of the Senate Employment and Productivity Subcommittee chaired by Quayle before he became Vice President. She has extensive experience in legislation (e.g., Job Training Partnership Act) and public policy.

## Third Annual Voc Ed Awards Program Culminates With February 9 Banquet

The third annual Texas Vocational Education Awards Program will culminate with a banquet on February 9 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Austin.

The Awards Program — initiated by T/COVE — recognizes student excellence and exemplary business, labor, and advisory committee involvement in vocational education. School districts, community colleges, and technical institutes submit nominations each fall, with the winners/finalists selected and announced by an Awards Committee in December and recognized at the banquet, said Shirlene Cook, Committee Chair. Six awards are presented in four categories:

•Outstanding Student (2) (Secondary & Postsecondary)

•Outstanding Special Populations Student (2) (Secondary & Postsecondary)

•Exemplary Business/Labor Involvement (1)

•Exemplary Advisory Committee (1)

One winner and three finalists are selected for each of the six awards. There have

been 115 nominations received this year in the four categories. Nominees not selected will be recognized with a "certificate of excellence," said Gilbert Martinez, T/COVE staff.

Students — currently enrolled in vocational programs — are judged on both their academic and vocational achievements as well as involvement in school and community projects and extracurricular activities. Business, labor, and advisory committees are judged on their partnerships with schools and promoting instructional excellence in effective and innovative ways.

The banquet — including the awards — is financed through individual donations, corporate contributions, and ticket sales, with the *Vocational-Technical Education Development Foundation of Texas* serving as the sponsor.

There were 221 people who attended the 1989 banquet, an increase from 147 the first year. Individuals who would like to be assured an invitation to the 1990 banquet should notify T/COVE.

115 Nominations Are Received for '89-90 Awards Program

## Coordinating Board Actions (continued from page 2)

continue to admit students to those programs until September 1, 1993, unless Texas Education Agency approval has been revoked. Associate degrees after the 1993 date will be subject to the approval and standards of the Coordinating Board, as provided in legislation passed this year. At present, 32 proprietary schools are awarding a total of 73 degree programs previously approved by the State Board of Education;

### Rep. Hammond Files Bill Restricting Voc Ed Funds

State Rep. Bill Hammond (R-Dallas) has filed a bill that would restrict the use of state vocational education dollars to programs offered at grades 9-12.

Filed on November 10 as H.B. 31, the proposed legislation would apply beginning with the 1990-91 school year. Governor Bill Clements has said he will not open the fall special legislative session — called to address workers' compensation — to school finance issues; therefore, the earliest that finance proposals could be acted upon would be sometime in 1990.

**•Admission Rule Changes.** Adopted changes to a rule governing community college admission requirements for high school students. One of the changes stipulates that the college class load of a (current high school) student shall not exceed *two college credit courses per semester*, with exceptions granted under special circumstances. Previously, the rule said "the college class load of such student shall not exceed the equivalent of 16 semester hours, counting each high school course as the equivalent of one three hour course." The change is designed to clarify the college class load of high school students who have completed the junior year and are permitted to enroll in a community college. Another change *requires* community colleges — under the open admissions philosophy — to admit GED holders. Previous wording stipulated that applicants who had not graduated from high school "may" be admitted on the basis of successful completion of the GED;

**•Discretionary Projects.** Received a report on discretionary projects for the 1989-90 program year funded under the federal

Carl D. Perkins Vocational Education Act. A total of 165 applications were received by the Coordinating Board, with 39 grant awards made. Examples of grant awards are: regional planning models in nine locations; 2+2 programs in telecommunications, electronics, health occupations, transportation, office information systems, computer, agriculture technologies; statewide telecommunications network; superconducting supercollider technology; research commercialization; determining jobs and training requirements for hazardous materials management; and a part-time instructor professional development model.

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