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ACTIVE news



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THE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN TEXAS

PUBLIC HEARINGS SET TO STUDY CURRICULUM

The Curriculum Study Panel, a 24-member committee appointed to recommend possible changes in the Texas public school courses of study, will hold a series of public hearings throughout the state beginning in April.

Designed to gather citizen viewpoints, the hearings are scheduled by the Texas Education Agency in cooperation with the state's 20 regional education service centers.

Created under House Concurrent Resolution 90 passed by the 66th Legislature, the panel will prepare a set of recommendations to be presented to the 67th Legislature.

Major concerns of the panel include the desired elements of a well balanced curriculum; a "basic curriculum," and proposed changes in both law and State Board policy, including accreditation standards. Remaining schedule includes:

<u>City</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location of Hearing</u>
El Paso.....	April 23.....	2-5 p.m. 7-9 p.m.	Region XIX ESC
Corpus Christi.....	April 23.....	4-7 p.m.	Region II ESC
Huntsville.....	April 24.....	2 p.m.	Region VI ESC
Amarillo.....	April 29.....	2-6 p.m.	Region XVI ESC
Abilene.....	April 30.....	2-5 p.m. 6:30-8:30 p.m.	Region XIV ESC
Lubbock.....	May 1.....	2-5 p.m. 7-9 p.m.	Region XVII ESC
Waco.....	May 1.....	2-5 p.m. 7-9 p.m.	Region XII ESC
Kilgore.....	May 6.....	3-5 p.m. 7-9 p.m.	Region VII ESC
Mount Pleasant.....	May 7.....	2-5 p.m. 7-9 p.m.	Region VIII ESC
Fort Worth.....	May 7.....	1:30-5 p.m. 7-9 p.m.	Region XI ESC
Beaumont.....	May 8.....	1:30-4:30 p.m. 6:30-8:30 p.m.	Region V ESC
San Antonio.....	May 13.....	1:30-5 p.m. 7-9 p.m.	Region XX ESC
Wichita Falls.....	May 13.....	1:30-5 p.m. 7-9 p.m.	Region IX ESC
Victoria.....	May 14.....	4-7 p.m.	Region III ESC
Edinburg.....	May 14.....	1:30-5 p.m. 7-9 p.m.	Region I ESC

You may wish to make input to the hearing panel. Presentations are usually limited to five minutes. Contact your Service Center

and have your name added to list of presenters, if you wish to speak.

WOMAN BREAKS BARRIER

Shirley Black has turned to a career in nickles and dimes.

The 27-year-old is learning to repair coin changers, cigarette machines, pinball, and video games at Texas State Technical Institute-Waco Campus. She is the only woman in the music and games equipment mechanics program.

"I've convinced the thirty men in my class I can do it. At first, some of the guys wanted to help me, but now I help them," the honor student said.

A high school drop-out, Black married in the ninth grade when she was "too young to think of the future." Her second marriage at eighteen lasted five years.

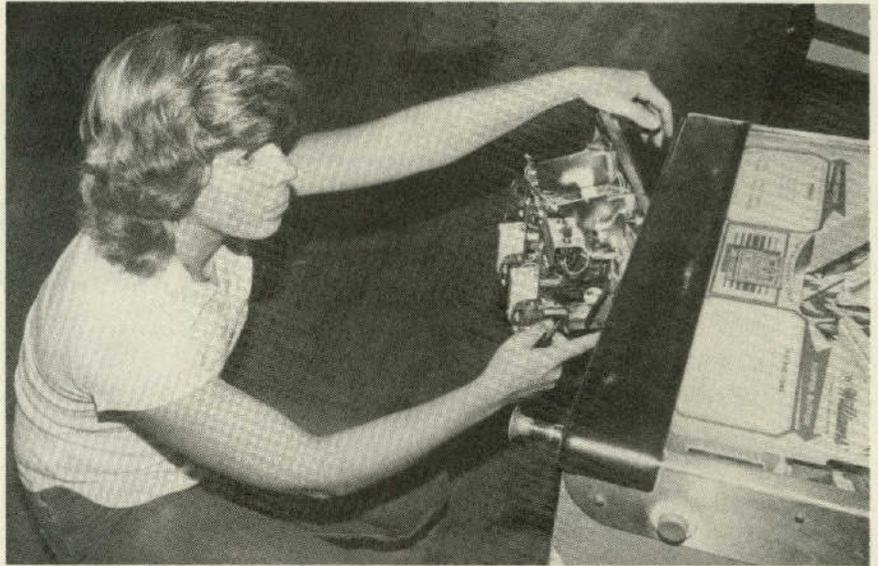
She moved to Waco three years ago and supported her two children by working in mobile home plants and in an auto supply warehouse for minimum wage.

"Finally, I realized I just couldn't raise two kids on \$3 an hour," she said.

Black enrolled at the Career Development Center and earned a General Equivalency Diploma (GED), which is equal to a high school diploma. The student "who had never done anything in school," graduated with a "B" average.

Aid from the Texas Rehabilitation Commission and a scholarship finances her education.

For at least thirty hours a week she studies applied electronics, digital circuitry and television servicing. Instruction is individualized with slides and tapes; so she works at her own pace under the direction of program chairman Jim Teele.



Shirley Black checks the coin device on a pinball machine in the lab at TSTI Waco.

In "hands-on" practice, she repairs and maintains cigarette machines and pinball games and will progress to the more difficult jukeboxes and electronic and video games.

Black said her children, Roger and Chera, love the idea of having a mom who repairs "toys."

"I feel like a mom to some of the students, too," she said. "So, I fix them dinner pretty often."

When she completes training in May, Black plans to stay in central Texas and service games on a route. She looks forward to the average starting salary of \$300 a week.

"First," she said, "I'm going to have a big party with my family from Galveston and walk across the stage at graduation."

(Story provided by TSTI—Waco Public Information Office)

ACTIVE TO MEET IN LAREDO

The Advisory Council will hold its April meeting in Laredo on the 18th and 19th at the La Posada Motor Hotel.

The program includes presentations on "Laredo Economic and Labor Market Overview," "Manpower and Vocational Programs in the Laredo Area." There will be tours of Laredo Junior College and the Instituto Regional Tecnológico de Nuevo Laredo.

A panel of school administrators, board members, and local advisory committee members will provide the Council members an overview of the vocational programs in the Laredo area.

Hosts for the meeting are Laredo Junior College President Mr. Domingo Archiga and Dr. Jacinto Juarez, Dean of Vocational and Technical Education, and member of the Advisory Council.

The Council meets quarterly in Austin, and other meetings are held in various parts of the state. In these cases, every effort is

made to gain background knowledge of the local economy, job market and employment and training activities.

VE FUNDS IMPOUNDED

The Administration sent its revised budget to Congress during the first week of April. It called for impounding \$87.5 million of vocational education funds. The Administration is proposing to cut the Basic State Grants program back to the FY 79 level. This would in effect, eliminate the \$100 million increase that Congress decided was needed for vocational education last year. The Administration has chosen to leave additional funding in for Program Improvement & Supportive Services and for Programs of National Significance.

This revised budget, technically known as a Recision or Impoundment, will be debated by the Appropriations Subcommittees in both the House and the Senate. Legally, both bodies (House and Senate) must agree to these cuts before they can become reality. Congress has 45 days to react to the Impoundment. If no action is taken, or if one body rejects the decision, it will become null and void and the funding will remain as it is currently.

It should be noted that these funds are taken from the FY 80 appropriations. This appropriation will become available to the states during the 1980 and 1981 school year, and planning in most states has already incorporated the funds that are proposed to be cut. It should also be noted that the Appropriations Subcommittees in the House and Senate are very key in an impoundment process. If they do not agree to the cut, then it cannot become a reality.

Meanwhile, the committees have been busy. By law, the Congressional Budget Committees must establish a budgetary ceiling for all programs funded with federal dollars. For

the past several days, both the House and Senate Budget Committees have been debating these budget ceilings and discussing rationale for establishment of their figures. Both House and Senate have now completed their First Budget Resolution for FY 81. The legislative status is as follows: 1) The House Budget Committee reported out a budget for FY 81 that is slightly higher than the FY 80 budget for all of education -- vocational education was held level. 2) The Senate Budget Committee has reported out a budget for FY 81 that is substantially lower than the current FY 80 budget for education. It is, however, higher in other areas such as defense. The rationale for the low education figures include a recommendation to cut \$200 million from vocational education funding. (It should be noted that Budget Committee recommendations are not binding upon Congress; however they do indicate the mood and intent of some members of Congress.)

Each Budget Resolution from the House and the Senate must now go to the floor of those respective bodies.

When the Budget Resolutions are considered on the floor by the full House and Senate, there will be strong attempts to reject the Budget Resolutions and the cuts made from social programs, particularly education. AVA is urging members of Congress to increase the budget in the education areas in order to make room for increased funding of vocational education for the coming years.

This is a critical time for funding for vocational education. Vocational education leaders and supporters need to provide their congressional members facts about vocational education programs and the need for further funding.

COLLEGES TO BE LINKED TO EMPLOYERS

The Senate education subcommittee last week adopted a sweeping proposal to link colleges more closely with business and government and encourage more youth employment efforts.

The panel gave final endorsement to S. 1839 to overhaul Title I Community Services and Continuing Education programs of the Higher Education Act. The panel tentatively approv-

ed the Title I revision February 28.

One element of the proposal would be a "post-secondary education and youth unemployment" program authorized at \$50 million a year in fiscal 1981, 1982 and 1983. Colleges would get grants to prepare youngsters for jobs through community projects, identify the needs and opportunities for skilled workers in the local economy and

forecast job skills in demand over a 10-year period.

Postsecondary institutions would help set up local nonprofit organizations to coordinate youth employment initiatives and could provide technical know-how and administrative personnel for at least two years.

Another provision of the measure drafted by the Senate Education, Arts and Humanities Subcommittee would establish a Title I commission to study ways of bolstering links between higher education research, business and government.

The proposal also would set a new formula for allotting federal planning and continuing education grants to states.

Funding - States would be guaranteed at least their fiscal 1979 level of federal planning and continuing education money under the panel's Title I proposal.

Ninety percent of Title I funds would be allotted as follows: 15 to 20 percent to planning of postsecondary programs, improving counseling and coordinating education information services; and 50 percent to planning continuing education programs with at least \$50,000 or no more than 12 percent of the

funds earmarked for information services and the remainder for state continuing education programs.

The education secretary would distribute the remaining 10 percent of program funds in discretionary grants to colleges, industry, businesses, labor groups or state agencies to develop and extend education services to "underserved" adults.

A copy of S. 1839 may be secured from the U.S. Senate or the U.S. Senate Documents Room, Washington, D. C., 20510.

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