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ABSTRACT

This final report of the Delaware Occupational Research Coordinating Unit (RCU) summarizes activities during the period from October 1, 1968, to August 31, 1969. Specific activities reported are related to major activities and accomplishments during the period, significant findings and events, dissemination activities, other activities, and personnel. (CH)

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FINAL REPORT

Project No. 6-2742

Grant No. OEG-1-6-062742-2146

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DELAWARE

OCCUPATIONAL RESEARCH COORDINATING UNIT

Dr. Wilmer E. Wise
Director, Research
and Publications

Joseph L. English
Supervisor,
Occupational Research
Coordinating Unit

James R. Campbell
Research Intern
Research Division

October 1, 1968 to August 31, 1969

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

Office of Education
Bureau of Research

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Division of Research and Publications
State of Delaware
Department of Public Instruction
Dover, Delaware 19901

October 8, 1969

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

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OCCUPATIONAL RESEARCH COORDINATING UNIT

Supervisor	Joseph L. English*
Secretary	Carolyn Bhai

***Employed August 1, 1969**

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INTRODUCTION

The Occupational Research Coordinating Unit is a section in the Division of Research and Publications. The major goals of the Unit are to design and conduct research programs of an experimental, developmental and pilot nature.

In order to stimulate activities essential to the improvement of Vocational Education, the Unit is responsible for the dissemination of the findings of all programs under its auspices. In the past year the Unit funded three special projects: The Work Experience for Junior High School students designated as potential dropouts, a Visit to Industry for Industrial Arts teachers, and sponsored in cooperation with the State Chamber of Commerce, the Job Fair Resource Booklet distributed in the Annual Job Fair Conference. It was attended by 2000 students.

The Unit maintains a library with an updated ERIC microfiche file in order to research and disseminate significant findings conducted in Vocational Education programs throughout the nation. The Unit has edited five publications which have been distributed to over 1000 interested educators. The Unit will be maintained for the coming school year and plans to sponsor statewide dropout study, manpower utilization study, provide in-service instruction in research techniques, and consult with local districts on the design, organization, and evaluation of new and exemplary programs.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THIS PERIOD

Special Study Project:

The coordination meetings concerning elements of the three-phase project continue. Preparations are being made for an evaluation session of the overall project design. Specific Department of Public Instruction staff have been involved and contacts have been made with other State agencies. The elements of this study previously reported are:

- a. Early School Leavers Study
- b. Survey of curriculum opportunities for non-college bound youth
- c. Survey of manpower needs/trends in Delaware

Special Projects Approved:

Three ORCU special projects were approved for funding on November 22, 1968. The funding goes to:

- ° School Work Experience Project (SWEP) -
Emergency funding to keep basic elements
of the project operational \$9,410.
- ° Guide for Visits to Industry -
Cooperative project with the Delaware
Industrial Arts Teachers Association . . \$ 350.
- ° Job Fair Resource Booklet -
Cooperative project with the State
Chamber of Commerce to publish a
resource booklet for use in state-
wide "Job Fair" type programs \$ 950.

Early School Leavers Study:

Contacts have been made with Department of Public Instruction staff who have worked with, or are now concerned with, dropout record keeping. These include Dr. Ruth Laws, Dr. Marian Miller, William Dix, Charles Orr, John Charlton, and Mrs. Mildred Snowberger. Consensus of these discussions determined that the need is for accurate dropout accounting and follow-up procedures that work, rather than another general dropout study.

Early School Leavers Study - con't.

It is evident that the proposed Vocational Education evaluation and manpower needs portions of the study will help determine some valuable data needed for decision making.

State Plan:

The Occupational Research Coordinating Unit has worked closely with Research and Publications in the preparation of priorities for the Occupational Research Unit as required by the State Plan to secure additional monies to sustain the Unit.

These priorities include rationale for the organizational structure of the Unit. A statement of the professional and nonprofessional personnel required to make the Unit an effective research instrument. Activities include annual state-wide dropout study, manpower utilization study, in-service instruction and research techniques, consultation with local districts in support of local proposals, consultation on the design, organization, and statistical evaluation of new and exemplary programs and also such educational programs as directed by the Superintendent. Closer coordination with the Public Information Office for the design and dissemination of pertinent publications.

Delaware Job Fair Project:

The Annual Delaware Job Fair Project was held March 24, 25, and 26, 1969, at the Henry C. Conrad High School, Wilmington, Delaware. It is jointly sponsored by the Delaware Chamber of Commerce and the Department of Public Instruction. The Unit participated by providing funding for the Job Fair Booklet which is distributed prior to the conference informing students, teachers, administrators and guidance counselors of the organizational structure of the conference with maps displaying the location of the industrial displays and a short resume' of the companies and their occupational opportunities.

ORCU made photographic and tape equipment available. Films will be shown at the post Job Fair Dinner to facilitate suggestions for improving next year's Fair.

The Job Fair is designed to present the occupational opportunities available in Delaware and to introduce employers to our terminal students who will be seeking employment in June.

Delaware Job Fair Project - con't.

Although limited to high school seniors, a special tour was conducted for the students of the Brandywine Junior High School Work Experience Program which is funded by ORCU. It was felt by the advisory staff that the opportunity would afford these potential dropouts a perspective that is available for students who complete high school. The employers responded enthusiastically to their questions and added words of encouragement to "complete school and the opportunity will still be available."

1969 Job Fair Participants: 2,000.

Library Facilities:

Occupational Research Coordinating Unit has an updated ERIC microfiche file which is accessible to all educational personnel in the state. It is also accessible to lay personnel. The Unit has contact with various universities, other State Occupational Research Units and numerous organizations that supply information on vocational and occupational projects. Dissemination to the local districts takes the form of newsletters, telephone contacts, and personal letters to local district personnel making them aware of the information. Unique and worthwhile projects are disseminated statewide at the discretion of the Occupational Research Unit. Hopefully, this process will affect program adaptations and curriculum revision.

SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS AND EVENTS

Evaluating Vocational and Technical Education Programs:

The Unit Director participated in the National Conference, held in Atlantic City, New Jersey, October 6-9, 1968. The resource papers from the conference are on file with the ORCU office.

Visiting Consultant:

The ORCU staff participated in a two-day meeting sponsored by the Research Division and directed by the distinguished Dr. Merle W. Tate. Dr. Tate's subject was "What is Research and What is Evaluation."

Visiting Consultant - con't.

This formidable overview presented many excellent ideas on the methods to be employed to reach meaningful conclusions when conducting research or program evaluations.

Several of these ideas were included in the State Plan for ORCU activities.

DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

Total Program Development:

"Total Program of Education for the World of Work - Part I" received the State Superintendent's approval for dissemination. A coordination meeting was held with Mr. Koble and Dr. Broyles to discuss implementation of the total program concept. Part III - "Facilities and Equipment Guide," has been completed as a reference source. Lack of an appropriation bill to fund the Vocational Education 1968 Amendments may hold off any funding as late as July 1, 1969.

Publications:

ORCU in cooperation with Mr. Richard Reiter, Supervisor of Special Education, Wilmington Public Schools, Wilmington, Delaware, has published and distributed "Follow-up Study of Occupational Education Work-Study Program Leavers." It is a comprehensive study of the economic status and community involvement of educable retardates who graduated or left a special work-study program designed to meet their educational necessities. Approximately 400 copies have distributed upon request.

Analysis Techniques: A presentation was made to Title III staff and materials were provided for the Title III workshop. A general mailing of the "Zoned Analysis" material was made to the Department of Public Instruction staff. Several other individual conferences have taken place to discuss use of the analysis techniques. Analysis chart material was provided for use in the curriculum development phases of the two Brandywine Springs Junior High School "special needs" projects.

Publications - con't.

Research Tools: The Unit has reproduced in quantity the "Content Analysis Chart," "Research Data Card," and the "Zoned Analysis Chart" for teacher use, statewide.

Here's An Idea #5: "What's Cooking in Kitchens of Tomorrow?" - a look into the future, 'foods we eat tomorrow may be more a matter of science than agriculture,' provided to Mrs. Snowberger for distribution to Home Economics teachers, statewide.

Here's An Idea #7: "Student Plan Sheet" - a printed form with descriptive copy for student evaluation and achievement, provided to Industrial Arts teachers at DSEA Convention.

Fall Newsletter: The preparation and publication of the Unit Newsletter for Fall '68 was completed. Compliance with the new distribution policy has caused lengthy delays in getting the materials mailed out.

Informational Bulletin #5: "Content Analysis Chart" - the use of analysis techniques in curriculum development and planning. Distributed to some of the Department of Public Instruction staff and to the Vocational-Technical Schools and Centers.

The Role of Advisory Committees in Vocational-Technical Education was revised.

Requests for "Resource Papers on the Disadvantaged" and "Occupational Information in the Elementary School" continued to be honored.

During the year one hundred guides, information booklets, research studies on teaching techniques, curriculum development and guidance techniques were distributed to specific teachers in the school districts.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Research Needs:

Individual meetings were held with Division Directors of the Department of Public Instruction and their staffs to establish research priorities and strategy of writing proposals.

PERSONNEL

The ORCU Coordinator's services were terminated, effective November 29, 1963.


The Assistant Coordinator submitted his resignation, effective January 15, 1969.

One of the Unit's secretaries gave notice of separation, effective December 31, 1968.

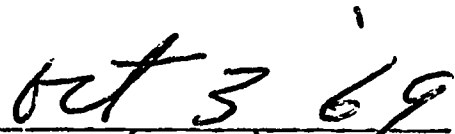
James Campbell was appointed Acting Coordinator of the Unit during the period of December 31, 1968 through July 31, 1969.

On August 1, 1969, Joseph L. English was appointed Supervisor of the Occupational Research Coordinating Unit.

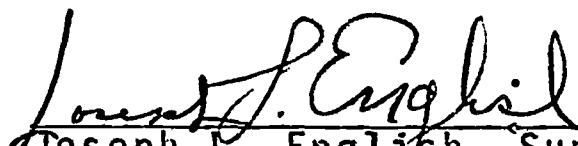
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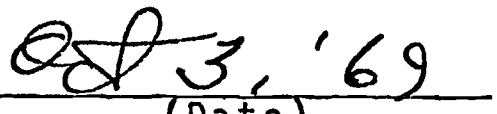
Wilmer E. Wise, Director
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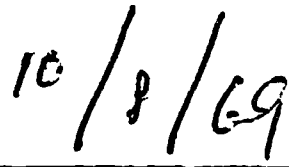
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