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ABSTRACT

This document begins with an overview of trends and issues in the area of access and equity in vocational education. The overview briefly addresses: emphasis in federal vocational education legislation on support of increased vocational education opportunities for special target populations, lack of success to date in certain areas of access and equity, and the bases of future policy to support access and equity goals. A list follows of resources that provide information about access and equity. Print resources available from ERIC are listed by author, with title, place of publication and publisher of source, date, and ED or EJ number. Similar information is presented for non-ERIC print resources. In addition, a listing is provided of organizations that can be contacted for further information. Addresses and telephone numbers are included. (YLB)

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TRENDS AND ISSUES

ACCESS AND EQUITY IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

An Overview of Trends and Issues

Print Resources

The Carl D. Perkins Vocational Education Act emphasizes support of increased vocational education opportunities for the following special target populations: individuals who are disadvantaged, limited English proficient, handicapped, incarcerated, displaced homemakers, and single parents. In order to serve members of these targeted groups successfully, vocational educators must create programs that are both accessible and equitable.

Access and equity have been major goals of vocational education since the Vocational Education Act of 1963. Current enrollment statistics indicate that efforts to date have not been entirely successful in--

- o Increasing general enrollments of special targeted population groups in vocational education
- o Providing high quality programs to special targeted populations
- o Increasing enrollments of women in nontraditional programs
- o Increasing the distribution of members of special targeted populations across a broad spectrum of vocational programs
- o Increasing placement of members of special targeted populations in good jobs

In the future, there will be a disproportionate growth in many of the special targeted groups as compared to the growth of general populations. Therefore, access and equity in vocational education and employment will be enduring needs. The increasing growth of numbers of individuals within special targeted populations and the increasing social and economic costs if those individuals are not contributing to national goals may well increase the emphasis on these needs as well as on the groups themselves.

It is anticipated that future policy to support access and equity goals will have two major bases. The first will recognize and support individual needs (civil rights). The second will focus on the importance of individual productivity to achieving social needs (economic stability and international competitiveness).

This Trends and Issues Alert contains resources about access and equity in vocational education. Included are both print resources as well as organizations that might be contacted for further information.

Access to Educational Opportunity in Rural Communities: Alternative Patterns of Delivering Vocational Education in Sparsely Populated Areas. 5 vols. St. Paul: Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Minnesota, 1985. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service Nos. ED 258 733, ED 270 284-287).

Akamine, T., and Dillard, C. B. *Improving Access of Special Populations to Vocational Education in the Yakima School District. Final Report.* Pullman: Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Washington State University, 1986. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. ED 281 984).

Bhaerman, R.; Belcher, J.; and Merz, H. *A Helping Hand: Guide to Customized Support Services for Special Populations* Columbus: The National Center for Research in Vocational Education, The Ohio State University; Bloomington, IL: Meridian Educational Corporation, 1986.

Bowen, B. "A Minority Perspective on Minorities in Agriculture." *Agricultural Education Magazine* 60, no. 6 (December 1987): 3-4. (ERIC No. EJ 360 398).

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Dunne, F. *Places in the System: New Directions for the Vocational Education of Rural Women. Occasional Paper no. 108.* Columbus: The National Center for Research in Vocational Education, The Ohio State University, 1985. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. ED 262 244).

The Forgotten Half: Non-College Youth in America. An Interim Report on the School-to-Work Transition. Washington, DC: The William T. Grant Foundation Commission on Work, Family, and Citizenship, 1988. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. ED 290 822).

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Lotto, L., and Murphy, J. "Access to Knowledge and High School Vocational Education." *Journal of Vocational Education Research* 12, no. 3 (Summer 1987): 39-55. (ERIC No. EJ 360 318).

Michigan State Advisory Council for Vocational Education. *The Accessibility of Vocational-Technical Education to Secondary and Postsecondary Students including Gender and Racial/Ethnic Composition and Special Populations*. Lansing: MSACVE, 1987.

National Alliance of Business. *Youth: 2000. A Call to Action*. Washington, DC: NAB, 1986.

Passow, A. H. "Uniformity and Diversity: Curricular and Instructional Issues." *Journal of Curriculum and Supervision* 2, no. 4 (Summer 1987): 342-353. (ERIC No. EJ 355 453).

Plihal, J.; Ernst, L.; and Rehm, M. *The Practice of Equity: Access to, Treatment in, and Outcomes of Vocational Education in the Secondary Schools*. St. Paul: Minnesota Research and Development Center for Vocational Education, University of Minnesota, 1986. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. ED 276 848).

Plihal, J.; Ernst, L.; and Scholl, S. *Equity in Vocational Education: A Study of Meaning*. St. Paul: Minnesota Research and Development Center for Vocational Education, University of Minnesota, 1987. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. ED 288 085).

Reilly, K. *Problems of Access to Vocational Education Programs in California Community Colleges: A Technical Assistance Handbook for Administrators and Faculty*. Los Angeles, CA: Evaluation and Training Institute, [1986]. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. ED 270 179).

Roth, G. L. "Making Computers Neuter in Vocational Education." *Journal of Studies in Technical Careers* 8, no. 1 (Winter 1986): 73-79. (ERIC No. EJ 340 830).

Sarkees, M. D.; West, L. I.; and Wircenski, J. L. *Vocational Education Programs for the Disadvantaged*. Columbus: The National Center for Research in Vocational Education, The Ohio State University, 1988.

Sproles, E. K. "Perceptions by Nontraditional and Traditional Agricultural Students toward Their High School Preparation and Work Barriers." *Journal of the American Association of Teacher Educators in Agriculture* 28, no. 2 (Summer 1987): 18-24. (ERIC No. EJ 353 435).

Sterling, G. A. *PRIDE Resources Handbook*. Division of Vocational and Career Education, Ohio State Department of Education, [1985]. (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. ED 274 863).

Resource Organizations

Bilingual Vocational Education Project, Northwest Education Cooperative, 500 South Dwyer, Arlington Heights, IL 60005 (312/870-4150).

Disability Rights Center, 1616 P Street, NW, Suite 435, Washington, DC 20036 (202/328-5198).

Displaced Homemakers Network, 1010 Vermont Avenue, NW, Suite 817, Washington, DC 20005 (202/628-6767).

National Association of Vocational Education Special Needs Personnel, c/o American Vocational Association, 1410 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 (703/683-3111).

National Center for Research in Vocational Education, The Ohio State University, 1960 Kenny Road, Columbus, OH 43210-1090 (800/848-4815 or 614/486-3655).

National Center on Effective Secondary Schools, Wisconsin Center for Education Research, University of Wisconsin, 1025 West Johnson Street, Madison, WI 53706 (608/263-7575).

National Center on Employment of the Disabled, Human Resources Center, Albertson, NY 11507, (516/747-5400).

9 to 5, National Association of Working Women/Working Women Education Fund, 614 Superior Avenue, Room 852, Cleveland, OH 44113 (216/566-9308).

Project on Equal Education Rights, 1413 K Street, NW, 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20005 (202/332-7337).

Vocational Studies Center, University of Wisconsin, 1025 West Johnson Street, 924 Educational Sciences Building, Madison, WI 53706 (608/263-2929).

