

Education

"THE REPORT CARD"

Yvonne Atkinson



Each year the Clark County School District conducts an extensive follow-up survey activity with our previous year graduates. The goal for this follow-up study was to obtain information that could provide a basis for improvement in policy, programs, and practices within the District. We further wanted to obtain information regarding our recent graduates' employment, continuing education, or training, and last and probably most important, their opinions about the various aspects of their high school education.

I read this report with great interest because of the 954 students responding to the survey, one could obtain an interesting picture analysis of the students we

serve in Clark County. Let me cite one example of the students responding to the survey: 76.2 percent worked during the eleventh and twelfth grade years; 35.8 percent of the students reported working between 21 and 40 hours per week. I discovered that 38.6 percent of our black students indicated they participated in extracurricular activities, but none of our black students were involved in the Varsity Quiz program.

There is so much valuable information contained in this follow-up survey that it is difficult to fully comprehend everything that we have been told; however, this kind of information will serve to assist me in looking at our students and making recommendations to my

ELDORADO HIGH SCHOOL

"We (at Eldorado High School) have the strongest vocational education program offered by any of the comprehensive high schools in the school district." These words of pride are those spoken by the principal of

fellow Board members regarding programs and activities which will assist our black students enrolled in the Clark County School District. Making policy does not, nor will it ever, make a total difference. While we, as members of the Board, can encourage students to participate in such programs as Varsity Quiz, vocational clubs, or hobby clubs, it is up to our students and parents to follow through and make sure that they have information about the activities.

A second part of the survey dealt with educational goals for our students who had just graduated. One of the concluding statements provides some very clear insight into the plans and work of students during high school. "A profile of respondents would generally place them in a college preparatory or general course of study program while in high school. Carrying a "B" or better grade point average, doing home work between one and five hours per week, and working between 11 and 40 hours per week. A typical female may have been more active in extracurricular activities than her male counterpart, who most likely was involved in athletics."

Of the jobs students indicated were of interest to them, manager/administra-

tor, lawyer/physician, and craftsman/laborer and technician were the jobs most often mentioned of interest to our graduates. Students seem to be relatively well pleased with their high school education. What do we learn from such a survey. We learn from our consumers what they have done, what they are going to do with the education they have obtained and hopefully gain an honest reaction about their likes and dislikes of certain policies of our schools.

I am pleased our District has taken time to conduct such an extensive survey, and to publish the results. It now is important that we use this information to better the total educational system that we have. I want you to know that I will look closely at what our students have said, and question areas where I believe there is a need for clarification. If for some reason our students are indicating a lack of interest, involvement, or access to certain programs, then I will request that our administration look at these areas more closely. By using this type of information from past years and gaining your input from this year, we will have a strong communication link between our District and our community. This type of communication will greatly assist us in building a better educational program

Paulin is quick to add that he has a number of concerns about the future of vocational education at Eldorado. He states that the elective program, including vocational education, has had increased pressure over the years due to increased graduation requirements. "I believe that if we are to maintain a strong vocational program, we are going to have to look at a number of program alternatives, and one of these may be a seven-period day." So, while Richard Paulin believes, and is committed to vocational education at Eldorado, he is aware of the pressures which are coming to bear on this and the other elective classes in the building, and is working to maintain an outstanding educational program component.

Those at Eldorado High School have every reason to take pride in the accomplishments of their students in vocational education. Last year, 1226 of the students enrolled at this school scheduled one or more vocational classes. This was the highest student enrollment in Vocational Education of any of the area high schools. Classes in business and office occupations, auto technology, carpentry, home economics, and drafting are but examples of the many occupational areas covered. It also has two programs special to this school: A vocational photography class, which has received numerous district awards; and, a class opened to both men and women in metal's technology. In an area where manufacturing is increasing in terms of job opportunities, working with different metal systems and welding is a viable occupational

opportunity for many students.

Eldorado is training students for Clark County's job market and finding success with placement of students. In discussing vocational education with Ms. Linda Crawford, one of the counselors at Eldorado High School, you are immediately impressed with her interest in students and

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Annual College Fair Scheduled For Oct. 28 - 29

The 7th Annual College Fair will be held Monday, Oct. 28 and Tuesday, Oct. 29, from 5-9 p.m. at the South Hall of the Convention Center.

Approximately 115 colleges, universities, vocational schools and military services are expected to be present. Representatives from these institutions will provide literature, answer questions and give financial aid information to interested high school juniors, seniors and their parents.

Formal financial aid presentations will be given on both days from 7-8 p.m.

The College Fair, sponsored by the Clark County School Counselors Assoc., has grown in scope each year. Last year, for example, only 110 post-secondary schools were present compared to the 115 expected this year. Since its inception in 1979, attendance has grown from 1,200 that year to the 3,862 students and parents who came last year.

The College Fair is free and open to all high school juniors, seniors and their parents.



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