

Education

"THE REPORT CARD"

National Recognition Comes to LV High School

Yvonne Atkinson



These past weeks have been special for the students and staff of Las Vegas High School because this school has been identified as one of 213 exceptional secondary schools in this country. The standards used in determining such a recognition are elaborate in nature. Every segment of the school is reviewed, including student activities and the administration, as well as a strong emphasis on the instructional program. Two other schools in Clark County have been recognized: Guinn and Cannon Junior High Schools. However, this is Clark County's first award presented to a senior high school. With over 16,000 school districts in this country, we can all be proud of the fact that three secondary schools in Clark

County have been identified as demonstrating "excellence in education." We have been judged against a "national yardstick," and we have met the criteria established.

But such an achievement does not just happen, it must be made to happen. There must be a dedicated staff with foresight to develop plans and programs which will meet both group and individual student needs. Funds which are available must be carefully used. Every decision must be considered for its impact today and tomorrow. Excellence in education must be considered for its impact today and tomorrow. Excellence in education means more than just an award, it means more than having our dignitaries from

across the state attend a well-deserving ceremony, it means more than media coverage, and it means more than a plaque to hang in the school. The one characteristic found in each of these schools, as well as the other schools sponsored by the Clark County School District, is their desire to have students SUCCEED. In Clark County, our goal is to provide a meaningful education for every student regardless of race, creed, or handicapping condition. It is a worthy goal and one that is being achieved through staff dedication, parent involvement, and student interest.

To Las Vegas High School, to the students, to the principal, Mike Edwards, and to a staff that makes success possible, on behalf of the Board of School Trustees, I extend our congratulations on a job well done. The Report Card this week offers an A-plus to Las Vegas High School

REMINDER

The P.A.C. group is continuing to meet. I am vitally interested in your comments or questions regarding our schools. I am also interested in hearing from you about topics that may be covered in this weekly column. If there are areas that I need to research for you, please contact me, and I will secure the information for you about our programs which may be of interest to all of our citizens. I have received very positive feedback from our meetings, and from the information I am presenting in these weekly columns. I do, however, need your support and involvement.

School District Notes

District Court Judge Earle White will swear in the Student Council Officers at Booker Sixth Grade Center, 2277 N. Highland Dr., on Friday, Nov. 8 at 1:30 p.m.

The Board of Trustees and the Superintendent of Schools will hold a recognition ceremony to honor 136 twenty-year employees of the Clark County School District.

The ceremony, to be followed by a reception, will be held Nov. 7 at 4 p.m. at the Southern Nevada Vocational-Technical Center, 5710 Mountain Vista.

SCHOOL TALK

By Dr. Marshall C. Darnell

Bonanza High School The Teacher is the Program

If you talk to the administration, counseling staff, or teachers at Bonanza High School, you suddenly appreciate the fact that their philosophy is "people oriented." Ray Morgan, principal of Bonanza, stated that the teacher is the program. He strongly endorsed the concept that the vocational programs being conducted at Bonanza High School have trained past graduates for the job market in Southern Nevada. Vocational education has been important to the students because the students have an alternative educational opportunity.

While this phrase has been used so many times that it might be somewhat trite, it is not so with the people at Bonanza High School. They believe that students can leave their high school program with job skill training and enter the labor market and make a decent wage and obtain a quality lifestyle. Carolyn Chatman, Assistant Principal at the school, provided these thoughts and emphasized that the students enrolled in Business and Office Occupations programs have such an alternative educational opportunity. Carolyn reported that many students enrolled at Bonanza High School do not have an immediate interest in attending a college or university, and an ever increasing number are finding difficulty in managing the finances needed to obtain a four-year degree. This has prompted the staff of Bonanza High School to develop a vocational program which meets job market needs and prepares secondary youth for immediate entry into the world of work. There are programs in drafting and architectural drawing. The administration indicates that the job market is obvious in these areas.

Students can enter employment in any one of the firms in town at a beginning level. There is a high demand for expert technicians in

metals fabrication and in welding. This can be seen in the increased industrial demand in production. In Business and Office Occupations, the job market offers opportunities from Clerk Typist to professional secretary. In Home Economics Related occupations, employment opportunities exist in child care, food service, and in the leisure and hospitality industry. With over 2,400 students enrolled at this school, the vocational program designed for students built upon their interest and maintained through a high probability of employment has produced impressive results. Ray Morgan was eager to discuss one other program at his school that he considered "outstanding."

There is at Bonanza a vocational education program for special students. He informed me that there is job specific training available for handicapped students and cited one example where 15 students are currently assigned to Sheila Farley for practical work experience training. "We have students who have work experience that is performed right here on our campus and these students are obtaining a high level of skill training. What better way to provide vocational education and to offer students a job and training them in an environment where they can learn and succeed." This may summarize the philosophy of this school that every student is worthwhile, every student has ability, every student has talent through a formal educational process, these students will have a chance for a productive life. Bonanza High School offers an exceptional vocational program for its students. Parents and students alike are encouraged to speak to school personnel about these opportunities.

Student Spotlight

Bonanza High School wanted me to salute Gail Morrison, a National Merit Semifinalist for 1986. Gail is a spirit leader, and a student leader at Bonanza High

School. National Merit Semifinalists rank in the top 1 percent of this nation's graduating class members each year. It is an achievement which demonstrates past academic success and a promise for a



Gail Morrison
National Achievement
Semi-Finalist



Fran Pollins
Miss Black Teen Nevada
Second Runner-up

bright future. A second student at Bonanza High School was Fran Pollins, the second runner-up in the Miss Black Teenage Contest. Fran is also an excellent student and a recipient of this week's "Student Spotlight" award.

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sector participation in program development and delivery. Those in attendance included owners and management personnel from several manufacturing companies and machine shops located in Las Vegas, North Las Vegas and Henderson, as well as economic representatives from the City of North Las Vegas, the City of Las Vegas, and the North Las Vegas and Latin Chambers of Commerce.

Since that time, McClary and Patricia Howard, North Las Vegas economic development coordinator, have worked with Clark County Community College's Dr. David Hogard and other staff members to develop the training needs.



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