

Farmington Grads Ease Into Job Market

Farmington high schools turn out some of the "most employable" graduates in the metropolitan area, according to a recent survey sponsored by the department of vocational education.

Statistics showed that even among the 70% of Farmington students who continue on to college, many use "salable skills" learned in the public schools to help pay their college costs.

Nearly four out of every 10 students are trained in some skill, according to the report, and 89% of those graduates who look for jobs eventually find them.

Statistics show further that 84% of the June 1970 graduating class who took part in the co-op program, which combines on-the-job training with textbook study, found employment in the trade in which they were trained or in an unrelated field. Vocational education graduates without co-op experience were 78% successful in finding jobs. Another 9.9% of vocationally trained students found part-time work while 7% of the co-op students found employment.

Among June, 1970 grads looking for work in the trades, only 6.5% are unemployed.

EARL BAUMUNK, director of vocational education for Farmington Schools, said the high rate of employment among Farmington grads "is a reflection of the quality of our programs and the caliber of our students." In the rest of metropolitan Detroit, 21% of the 16-19 year olds are jobless.

Figures on June, 1970 grads are taken from

a follow-up study required by the Michigan Department of Vocational Education for occupational preparatory and cooperative education courses partially underwritten by the state.

Among these courses in Farmington are Machine drafting, advertising, merchandising, machine shop, Typing II, secretarial procedures, transcription and the nursing arts of occupational preparation and office work, nursing, retailing, trade and industrial work preparation in cooperative programs.

Excluded from the survey but who probably qualify with "salable skills" are students in food service and data processing (offered jointly with Oakland Community College), shop, home economics and business education.

Among co-op graduates, 57.2% were employed or available for employment. Of these, 57.9% were employed in occupations for which they were trained, 26% found jobs in unrelated fields and 7% found part-time employment. Only 10% were looking for work compared with 21% of their peers in the metropolitan area.

Some co-op graduates, totaling 37.7%, are continuing their education part-time. Of these, 50% are enrolled in programs related to their co-op training and 52% are working part-time in co-op or related jobs.

Statistics show that Farmington grads are making it.



NURSING ARTS STUDENTS learn how to use a Sphygmomanometer under the watchful eye of Mrs. Dorothy Burch, R.N., at Botsford Osteopathic Hospital. Sponsored by the Farmington Schools Vocational Education Department, many of the Nursing Arts co-op students go on to careers in the field of medicine. (Fran Evert Photo)



WOOD CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL measured its first year in operation an "outstanding success," according to former principal Lawrence Freedman. The open-concept and other innovative programs gave a "valuable learning experience" to children there. Here Freedman helps William Shoults, a kindergartner from the Sarah Fisher Home, with a broken zipper. (Fran Evert Photo)



HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL students completed their first year at the newly-constructed school more enthusiastic than ever. Here, students experiment in the handsome chemistry lab that houses some of the most modern equipment in any metropolitan high school. Harrison will graduate its first senior class in June, 1972. (Fran Evert Photo)

Young Drivers Train On 'Simulators'



TAKING TO THE WHEELS of these driver training simulators, machines that teach the basics of driving to students before they actually encounter them in a car, are Farmington High School students and other students at Harrison High. Peggy Higgs tries to manipulate her "vehicle" along with one being driven on a screen at the head of the classroom. (Evert Photo)

Training young drivers to brave modern expressways and super highways entails a lot more than Henry Ford ever dreamed of.

The Driver Education program in Farmington Public Schools took this into consideration and updated its program by installing new driver "simulator" machines at Harrison High School.

Last year for the first time, Farmington students gained practical knowledge of automobiles, timing, braking, signaling and accelerating on the 16 machines. This training augments lectures, textbooks and "on the road" practice in donated cars.

Each machine comes equipped with an auto seat, steering wheel, column, dashboard, brake, gas pedal, ignition switch and a manual shift column that is activated when the "clutch" is folded down from the upper left hand corner under the steering wheel.

As a film at the head of the classroom starts to roll, depicting everything from driving at night and in the rain to expressway driving and maneuvering in residential areas, students must follow the instructions of the voice on the screen.

A series of red lights above the dashboard flash on when the driver signals incorrectly, brakes too slowly or starts getting a lead foot on the gas pedal. Each mistake is then recorded on a central switchboard at the rear of the classroom under the watchful eye of driver education instructors, who call out to the student to correct his error.

After each film, students line up at the teacher's central switchboard to see how many and what kind of mistakes they've made. This all contributes to their grades at the end of the class.

All driving on the simulators is done on "automatic", although students learn to shift manually during the last of class.