

Schoolcraft Eyes Vocational Center

A new dimension may soon be added to vocational education in the Schoolcraft College district if exploratory spadework already underway by college administrators and trustees bears fruit.

The idea that could become a reality is the development of a college-based area vocational center which would provide a wide range of career oriented programs that normally are beyond the practicable capabilities of individual high school units within the college district.

Schoolcraft College officials first expressed interest in establishing such a center in the early days of the college. The idea was temporarily shelved during the period when the college was actually being built and while its academic and technical programs were being developed.

Interest was revived earlier this year as implementation of the Schoolcraft college-level vocational education program was completed in the new technical-vocational building.

The Michigan Legislature early recognized the role of the community college as an area vocational center, and, as recently as last year, in the Community College Act of 1964, defined a community college as "an educational institution providing, primarily for all persons above the 12th grade level and primarily those within commuting distance, collegiate and non-collegiate education including area vocational-technical education programs."

The Act further defined an area vocational-education program as one designed to provide training in employable skills to: 1—those who have completed or who have left high school and who are in need of training to enter the labor market; 2—employed persons who need training for better jobs; and 3—high school students.

The Legislature went one step further by defining the word "area" to mean the geographic territory of the college district.

In recent months Schoolcraft President Dr. Eric J. Bradner and other administrators including Vice President for Instruction John H. Brinn and Dean of Technical-Vocational Instruction Jon P. Adams, have reopened discussions on an area center with school superintendents and high school principals from the five public school districts comprising the college district: Clarenceville, Garden City, Livonia, Plymouth and Northville.

Earlier this month, college trustees heard a report which outlined the concept of the area vocational center and which structured in broad terms the educational program such a center would offer, how it might be organized, enrollment estimates and tentative unit costs for construction and operations.

At the same time, Dr. Bradner informed trustees he intends to pursue the matter with school district superintendents. Trustees also agreed to take an in-depth look at the idea early in the fall.

In his report to the trustees, Dean Adams explained that such a center at Schoolcraft would supplement, rather than replace, existing vocational programs of area high schools.

"The concept of the area

center," Adams said, "emphasizes cooperative arrangements between the school districts in which they jointly provide specialized education for their students on a part-day basis. Programs of study at the center would be those which could not be adequately supported due to lack of sufficient enrollment of financial resources."

High school students attending the area center, Adams explained, would retain their identity with their

own high schools and would graduate from them. The dean cited these advantages of the area center: specialized training opportunities to a greater number of persons than is possible in smaller schools serving individual areas; a greater range of curriculum offerings; and thus a wider choice of occupational training; sufficient enrollment to fill classes which would not ordinarily be filled in the local high schools.

In addition, Adams said, the area center would provide a broader tax base for financing, avoid duplication of high cost equipment, programs and services, and would make possible a broader administrative base and more comprehensive auxiliary services.

The center would permit employment of teachers who are specialists in various occupational areas.

In his report, Adams stressed

the need for maximum cooperation and definition of programs between the high schools, the area center, and the college in order to assure quality vocational education at all levels.

With the development of an area vocational center, Adams said, the high school would retain all of its generally accepted responsibilities for each student and would provide the best possible program in general exploratory career education in such

areas as practical arts, industrial arts, general business, general agriculture and home economics.

The area center would concentrate on specific occupational preparation with programs which 11th and 12th graders from area high schools attend at the area center.

The college would continue to provide its college level program of highly sophisticated technical education as the next step up the occupational

preparation scale. Trustees have raised a number of questions in the preliminary talks. They relate to the need for such a center, how the center will fit into both long-range and shorter-term development plans for the college, where the center would be built, and the coordination of plans between the college on the one hand and the five public school districts on the other.

Not the least of the questions is: where will the

money come from? Trustees have asked the college staff to explore these areas and provide information on which the board can base its decisions.

One factor in the development of the college-based area center will certainly be the results of a year-long study of vocational education needs undertaken by the Livonia school system. Schoolcraft's Dean Adams is a member of the study committee.



A SECOND GRADER traces a stimulus card for improving his eye-hand coordination under the watchful eyes of Sister M. Sophie in the reading courses being conducted at Madonna College.



THREE YOUNGSTERS participate in body exercises under the supervision of Mrs. Janette Smith. The program is aimed at developing a perceptual readiness level.

Madonna Reading Program Is Helping 92 Persons

"It is essential to understand the whole child and his total pattern of development."

With that premise in mind, the Madonna College reading program is geared to help 92 persons between six and 23 years of age go through a remedial program which overcomes their learning problems.

The students at The Livonia college are first given a series of tests and interviews before being accepted in the program which has 23 religious and lay instructors on hand.

A preliminary analysis of the student's problem is made, which includes a psychological test of general ability, a diagnosis of his reading difficulties, followed by a testing of his visual and audio efficiency; and an evaluation of his perceptual skills.

Sister M. Martina, CSSF, director of the college's Psycho-Educational Center, said that "we group them according to their individual needs and then structure a program to meet those needs."

Part of each pupil's evaluation was also observation of

his personal and social adjustment in terms of a personality questionnaire.

"We believe that learning reading is more than in interpretation of written or printed symbols," Sister Martina said. "It is essential to understand the whole child and his total pattern of development."

The 92 pupils meet every morning from Monday to Friday and when divided into groups of one to four are guided through an individualized training program lasting 90 minutes per day.

The center, started 15 years ago with a classroom of 15 students, is now filled to capacity with a waiting list for next summer.

Slater Martina, a doctor of psychology, explained the success of the reading program by pointing out that "the thorough screening process that is completed on each child prior to admission helps us to know each child's needs and work with him immediately. Much emphasis is placed on helping him regain confidence in himself, since prior to this, he has had so little success in school."

Of those not accepted for the reading program, some are recommended to proper agencies where the youngsters will benefit from correct treatment.

But Clayton agreed with Smith that the deputy chief designation would help Holko in the performance of his duties.

Smith made a motion to change the title of the position but no action was taken until Holko is asked to make the request personally.

Commissioner Edward Kane commented that a person doesn't need the title to get the respect and added that the police department is not as established as the Westland fire department.

College Offers Course To Building Inspectors

A new course to provide technical information to building inspection bureau personnel has been announced by Schoolcraft College Dean of Technical-Vocational Instruction Jon P. Adams.

The 16-week course, titled Introduction to Building Inspection, will be offered in the fall term starting Aug. 31. The class will meet three hours weekly, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., on Tuesday nights in Room T-300.

Adams said it is believed to be the only one of its kind being offered in Michigan, and is one of only two or three in the nation.

The course is designed to provide instruction in the history, legal origin and purpose, and implications of building codes, basic understanding of building code organization and interpretation, and in the organization, operation and responsibilities of a building inspection bureau.

It was developed as the result of interest among building officials from area communities in providing an in-service educational program for their personnel. Employment in an inspection bureau is a requirement for admission to the course.

"The regulation of building construction to provide safety standards for public and private use is a highly specialized field," Adams said. "Under normal conditions, this particular activity is not readily adaptable to pre-entry training."

As a result, individuals employed in building inspection offices generally have educational and experience backgrounds in the building industry, but lack specific training in applying and adapting this background to the area of government control of building construction as provided by building codes."

A group of building officials from nearby communities participated in the introduction

to the evening program at Schoolcraft, who will have direct responsibility for administering the course.

During the planning period, the course outline was explained to both the South-eastern Michigan Building Inspectors Assn. and the Building Officials Conference of Michigan. Each organization reacted favorably.

Richard Sanderson, Chicago, executive director of the Building Officials Conference of America, volunteered to serve as guest lecturer for several sessions when he sat in on a discussion at the Michigan Conference meeting at Port Huron earlier this year.

Sanderson, whose office seeks to encourage the development of in-service training for building inspection bureau personnel, said he knew of only one other college-based program in the country — an annual two-week seminar at the University of Connecticut. Sanderson said he was hopeful the University of Illinois would establish a similar seminar.

Clarenceville Board Slates Budget Hearing

The Clarenceville Board of Education will hold a public hearing at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 10 in its office at 2880 W. Eight Mile Rd., on the proposed 1967-68 budget.

School officials invite all interested citizens to attend, stressing that members of the Board and of the school administrative staff will be on hand to answer any questions put forth in regard to the budget.

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State Home Chief Thanks Volunteers

Critical staff shortages at Plymouth State Home were alleviated by volunteer help from Plymouth — much to the relief of the Home's chief executive.

Many members of the staff could not leave riot-torn Detroit.

Homer F. Weir, Medical Superintendent at the Home this week praised the work of the emergency volunteers.

"An emergency arose in Northville when more than half of the child care personnel at the Plymouth State Home and Training School were unable to report for duty on the various shifts.

To feed and care for 1200 mentally retarded residents with a minimum number of stranded and tired employees always creates a critical period," Weir said.

"During this emergency, the residents of Plymouth and the surrounding area responded so tremendously that our children did not experience any delay in meeting their needs."

"I extend my sincere thanks to the hundreds who helped," Weir said.

"It is most inspiring to see the great number of people who are concerned for others, people who truly care."

BOYS! GIRLS!

If you like red, juicy, ice-cold watermelon... you may win a brand new deluxe bike! Enter Wonderland's contest for Champion Melon-Eaters and see which boy or girl can eat a quarter-section of watermelon the fastest!

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9 and 10-year-olds (12 a.m.)

11 and 12-year-olds (1 p.m.)

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Police Title Extension Is Asked by Captain

A proposed change of title of the second highest ranking officer in the nine-month-old Westland Police Department was postponed by the Civil Service Commission Thursday night.

Reason for the delay in action on the suggestion of Commissioner Thomas G. Smith was to allow time to ask Captain Ronald Holko to appear before the group in person.

Smith raised the topic at the end of the meeting and said that while there is no additional duties, he and Holko felt that the title of captain should be expanded to "Captain-Deputy Chief."

It was felt that the change would place the position on the same level as the second highest-ranking officer in the fire department and would give Holko "the proper recognition" from the public and other callers when Chief Garjison Clayton is not available.

Smith pointed out that when other captains are named in the future, the deputy chief portion of the rank would be dropped.

But Chief Clayton said that the expansion of the title is "premature" at this time and would create a problem when in the future, competitive tests are held for the open-

ing in the captain's rank, only lieutenants in the detective bureau would be eligible to take the tests.

But Clayton agreed with Smith that the deputy chief designation would help Holko in the performance of his duties.

Smith made a motion to change the title of the position but no action was taken until Holko is asked to make the request personally.

Commissioner Edward Kane commented that a person doesn't need the title to get the respect and added that the police department is not as established as the Westland fire department.