



NEVADA LEGISLATURE

Subcommittee to Study the Effectiveness of Career and Technical High Schools
(Assembly Bill 388, Chapter 309, *Statutes of Nevada 2005*)

SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT

The third meeting of the Nevada Legislature's Committee on Education Subcommittee to Study the Effectiveness of Career and Vocational High Schools was held on April 13, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. at the Truckee Meadows Community College IGT Applied Technology Center, 475 S. Edison Way, Room 121, Reno, Nevada. A copy of this set of "Summary Minutes and Action Report," including the "Meeting Notice and Agenda" ([Exhibit A](#)) and other substantive exhibits, is available on the Nevada Legislature's Web site at www.leg.state.nv.us/73rd/Interim. In addition, copies of the audio record may be purchased through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Publications Office (e-mail: publications@lcb.state.nv.us; telephone: 775/684-6835).

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN RENO:

Assemblywoman Bonnie Parnell, Chairwoman
Senator Barbara K. Cegavske
Senator Bernice Mathews

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

Assemblyman Chad Christensen

OTHER LEGISLATOR PRESENT:

Assemblyman Brooks Holcomb, Washoe County Assembly District No. 24

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Carol M. Stonefield, Principal Research Analyst
Kim Marsh Guinasso, Deputy Legislative Counsel
Joi Davis, Program Analyst, Fiscal Division
Maryann Elorreaga, Senior Research Secretary

OPENING REMARKS

Chairwoman Parnell called the meeting to order and asked the secretary to call the roll. She thanked President Philip Ringle for hosting the Subcommittee meeting and thanked the Washoe County School District (WCSD) for organizing the lunch catered by the culinary arts students of the Regional Technical Institute (RTI).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE, MARCH 1, 2006 MEETING

Chairwoman Parnell said that due to technical difficulties, the March 1, 2006 meeting minutes were not available for approval. They would be considered at the May 9, 2006 meeting.

PRESENTATION ON CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROJECTIONS FOR THE NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- Philip Ringle, Ph.D., President, Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC), conducted a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation entitled “TMCC Career Technical Education Presentation” ([Exhibit B](#)) He gave an overview of the historical context and changing trends of Career and Technical Education (CTE). Dr. Ringle said four things would need to be taken into consideration for the reformation of CTE:
 1. Economic growth and development will require a qualified work force.
 2. New technologies will require corresponding obtainment of new knowledge and skills.
 3. Technological changes will require updating workers’ existing knowledge and skills to avoid their obsolescence.
 4. Jurisdictional disputes among education and training providers will have to be resolved and responsibilities assigned in a manner that capitalizes on the strengths of all institutions.

He discussed the integrated relationship between high school training, post-secondary training and the business and industry community.

PRESENTATION ON TECH PREP IN WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT (WCSD) AND TRUCKEE MEADOWS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Janet Hay, Site Administrator and Coordinator, Career and Technical Education, Brown Center, WCSD, gave an overview of CTE in Washoe County. She said the WCSD had 12 comprehensive high schools and the RTI which all offered CTE courses. She said most of the comprehensive high schools offered Level I (introductory) and Level II (skill specific) courses; most of the advanced (job specific) courses were offered at the RTI. She said student numbers in those classes were increasing at a higher rate than the growth of the high school population and higher than the increase in the number of students in two or more classes. She noted the number of courses

articulated for Tech Prep credit had increased, especially within Level II. The significance of Tech Prep credit had grown as well; colleges, technical schools, and universities outside of Nevada recognized the credits; students entering the military received benefits; and apprenticeship programs gave students extra points in the interview process and once accepted waived 20 hours of classroom time for every credit they earned. She said CTE helped students jump-start productive careers and provided the business community with a skilled labor force.

- Jowell Laguerre, Vice President for Academic Affairs, TMCC, said the P-16 concept could be a theory or it could be a practice. Tech Prep was the embodiment of P-16 or a seamless transition from high school to college. He said TMCC administrators and faculty had worked hard to meet the expectations of the community by shortening the time to completion of training by awarding high school students college credits. The successful implementation of Tech Prep at the college level was exemplified by the number of students who enrolled in subsequent college courses.
- Cindy Tedford, Tech Prep Coordinator, TMCC, said TMCC and WCSD had 13 programs articulated with RTI and 11 courses articulated with WCSD comprehensive high schools. She said the articulation agreements were reviewed every three years.

PRESENTATION FROM WASHOE COUNTY CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION ADVISORY TECHNICAL SKILLS COMMITTEE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS (*NEVADA REVISED STATUTES (NRS) 388.385*)

John Kukulica, Culinary and Hotel/Hospitality Management Technical Skills Advisory Committee, Lee Roberts, Metalworking Technical Skills Advisory Committee, and Sonya Volce, Drafting Technical Skills Advisory Committee and Council for Career and Technical Education, gave a joint presentation on the development of effective CTE.

- Mr. Kukulica said he was actively involved with the Culinary CTE student organizations Skills USA and Pro Start. He said he strongly believed in the organizations and felt they provided valuable tools to CTE students. Involvement with professional associations and community groups and state and national competitions enhanced skills, built confidence and provided valuable contacts. He said continued support of the organizations was critical to the development of a qualified work force in the Culinary Arts and Hotel and Hospitality Management fields. He urged the Subcommittee to further develop and expand programs in the culinary and hospitality fields.
- Mr. Roberts said his committee had set a standard for equipment which every high school should have to teach metal working and welding. Grant funding had been utilized to help the schools acquire the needed equipment. He said many of the shops needed new manifold systems and some ventilation systems needed updating. The committee would be participating in establishing education specifications for the Career and Technical Academy High School and designing a facility for the advanced Welding

Fabrication Technology Program. He said it would be beneficial to students and the community if the WCSD could provide education which would enable students to enter the work force with a basic knowledge of the construction fields. That knowledge would also afford them the possibility of earning credit toward apprenticeship programs.

- Ms. Volce said CTE was designed to help educators promote student success by making strong connections between learning and life. It was based on the philosophy that internal motivation and relevance would improve achievement. She said motivation would be likely to increase if there was a strong connection between the classroom and a student's world of reality. She said 52.8 percent of WCSD high school students were enrolled in CTE courses and drop out rates for WCSD high school students enrolled in at least one CTE class was lower than the dropout rate for WCSD high school students in general. She said earning free college credits through the Tech Prep program was an incentive for students to pursue a college education after graduation.

Chairwoman Parnell acknowledged the presence of Assemblyman Brooks Holcomb, Washoe County Assembly District No. 24, and thanked him for his work regarding CTE, including Assembly Bill 48 which he introduced during the 2005 Legislative Session.

PRESENTATION ON EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION GRADUATES IN THE WASHOE COUNTY AREA

- Norman L. Dianda, President, Q and D Construction, Reno, Nevada, said students needed to be made aware of the availability of college credits through Tech Prep programs. He said he thought the way to do that was to approach middle school students and let them know about the high school programs before they got to high school. He discussed available positions and pay scales at Q and D Construction including: mechanics, body repairpersons, painters, fuelers, welders, heavy equipment operators, carpenters, cement masons, truck drivers, detailers, cabinet makers and installers, operators of computerized cabinet shop equipment, civil and building estimators, project managers, superintendents, project engineers, project administrators, safety directors, small tool repairpersons, and purchasing agents. He said the lowest paid position, a "helper" in the cabinet shop, started at \$8-\$9 per hour. Apprentices started at between \$12 and \$14 per hour. He said the average pay was \$22 per hour plus approximately \$6.50 per hour in benefits. He noted his company employed approximately 1,000 people but they could use many more; Q and D Construction had been forced to turn down work due to lack of employees.

A discussion ensued between subcommittee members and Mr. Dianda regarding the availability of tech prep programs, the importance of the involvement of school counselors in explaining to students what their career and education options were, and the need for facilities for CTE.

- John Madole, Executive Director, Nevada Chapter, Associated General Contractors of America, thanked the Subcommittee for exploring CTE. He said the dignity of having a craft needed to be restored and emphasized the careers being discussed were good economic opportunities.

PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION (NRS 218.5352)

- Chairwoman Parnell said the next Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for May 9 in Carson City. She said the most important upcoming meeting was set for June 6 in Las Vegas. At that meeting it will be decided which recommendations will be presented to the full Committee on Education. She asked that recommendations be presented by the May 9 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one came forward for public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryann Elorreaga,
Senior Research Secretary

Carol M. Stonefield,
Principal Research Analyst

APPROVED BY:

Assemblywoman Bonnie Parnell, Chairwoman

Date: _____

LIST OF EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the Meeting Notice and Agenda provided by Carol M. Stonefield, Principal Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau.

[Exhibit B](#) is a hard copy of a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation entitled “TMCC Career Technical Education Presentation,” submitted by Philip M. Ringle, Ph.D., President, Truckee Meadows Community College.

This set of “Summary Minutes and Action Report” is supplied as an informational service. Exhibits in electronic format may not be complete. Copies of the complete exhibits, other materials distributed at the meeting, and the audio record are on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, Nevada. You may contact the Library online at www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/feedbackmail.cfm or telephone: 775/684-6827.