NCES DOVE UPDATE

Welcome to the new millennium! In keeping with the changing times, we have revised the format of the *DOVE Update* to make it more informative and added a new "VocEd Fast Facts" section. We are also establishing a website and a listserv mailing list to facilitate document sharing and communication among TRP members.

LATEST NEWS

*The bad news…*This is a fiscally lean year at NCES. As a result, we will not be producing as many vocational education reports as we had hoped.

The good news… Although a tight budget is always difficult, the timing of this budget crunch is advantageous, because much of the work we would have done this year can be done by the National Assessment of Vocational Education (NAVE). For example, the NAVE plans to examine trends in the participation of special population students in vocational education and to conduct a comprehensive examination of postsecondary occupational education. Meanwhile, we will focus our attention on the two reports listed below and on long-term issues, such as Technical Review Panel (TRP) coordination and planning activities.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

Reports. We plan on producing two new reports this year: one updating secondary enrollment trends with 1998 NAEP transcript data, and another using the National Household Education Survey to examine adult participation in work-related education.

Planning. We are working on a planning document that will serve as a guide for future VocEd TRP activities. It will identify the key vocational education issues that national statistical data should inform, map these issues to national surveys that contain the most relevant information, and provide a timeline to highlight opportunities for input on important surveys and analyses. The document, which we will ask you to review once it is posted on the website, will allow us to take advantage of time-sensitive opportunities to improve national data on vocational education.

You should have already received information via our new TRP listserv mailing list. This mailing list will be used (judiciously) to obtain your feedback on important issues and to alert you to the availability of new reports or new postings on our website. As soon as the website is finished, we will send out a notification message via the listserv.

UPCOMING PUBLICATIONS

Vocational Education in the US will be out in print in late February (extra time was needed to correct a small error). In the meantime, you may go to nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2000029 for an advance copy. An *Ed Tabs* report with selected findings from the Job Skills PEQIS/FRSS surveys will be released in March; a more detailed report on these data is scheduled for publication this fall. *The Education Plans and Program Paths* report is being prepared for adjudication (the NCES peer review process) in February.

As soon as they are released, the NCES publications noted above may be obtained from EdPubs (877.433.7827 or edpubs@inet.ed.gov) or from the NCES website (http://nces.ed.gov).

VocEd Fast Facts

In 1997, 50 percent of all public high schools offered tech-prep education, 20 percent offered career majors, and 19 percent offered school-based enterprises. All three activities were more likely to be offered in larger schools (with over 1,000 students) than in smaller schools, and in suburban and urban schools rather than in rural schools.

SOURCE: Vocational Education in the United States: Toward the Year 2000, by K. Levesque, D. Lauen, P. Teitelbaum, M. Alt, and S. Librera, NCES 2000–029, Washington, DC: US Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2000. Original Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, 1996–97.

NOTEWORTHY ITEMS

NAVE. New reports have been posted on the NAVE website (http://www.ed.gov/offices/OUS/eval/NAVE/index.html). Included among the publications is *What Can We Learn About Postsecondary Vocational Education From Existing Data?*