

Vocational Panel Seeks \$2.7 Million For 1975

By Guadalupe Borja
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The Territorial Advisory Council on vocational education has accepted a proposal that Guam request some \$2.7 million of local and federal funds for vocational education next fiscal year, Duane Pierce, associate superintendent of vocational education, said yesterday.

Pierce said he will present the budget proposal to the Territorial Board of Education July 2 for final approval.

Pierce said Guam is requesting some \$306,000 federal monies.

The budget proposal, called a "state plan," includes information on how and what Guam is providing in vocational education at the secondary, post-secondary and adult levels. Pierce said Guam submits such a plan to Washington each year to qualify for federal funds.

The "state plan" projects figures for next year and up to 1979.

Charts showing the projected needs of certain services and industries are included. An acute need for workers in distributive services, in wholesaling and retailing; trades and industry; offices; and food management production and services is indicated for the next five years. The charts were compiled from the Departments of Labor, Commerce and Education, private business and

military data, Pierce said.

According to the tables, about 1,000 additional workers will be needed by 1979 for the island's expanded trades and industries. Guam's education system will graduate about 132 electricians, plumbers, metal welders, mechanics and the like to fill those needs, it is expected.

The tables show another 93 workers will be trained by other sources: private business and the labor department's work apprenticeship programs, for example.

For the island's clerical needs, only 45 persons will be trained by the educational system to fill some 600 projected jobs in 1979, the charts show. They also show that 44 persons will receive office training from other sources, such as the International Business College.

The island in 1979 will need 50 workers in food management production and services -- but only 45 will be trained by the education department, according to the tables, which indicate none will be trained by other sources.

The plan purposes that \$48,000 in federal funds be spent next year to aid disadvantaged high school students pursuing vocational education. A total of \$45,000 will be used for handicapped persons at the Guam Vocational Rehabilitation Center. Federal law requires that federal monies

for vocational education be split at 15 percent for the disadvantaged and 10 percent for the handicapped, Pierce said.

Pierce said Voc-Tech graduated some 120 students last year. Some 22 adults in the school's evening program also completed the course.

The council last week noted that a Community Career College has been established at the University of Guam. Retiring council chairman W. C. Garrett said yesterday that the career college facilities could be utilized by the Department of Education for occupational and academic education at the post-secondary level.

Garrett, associate dean of the college, said it has extension courses--those offered by the university off-campus--and vocational courses offering one-and-two-year certificates. The certificate program, which also may lead to an associate of arts degree, includes nursing, computer science, electrical engineering technology, dental auxiliary services and surveying, Garrett said.

Garrett said the college has been operating some five years, but until two months ago was under the College of Business and Applied Technology.

Plans for construction of the island's fourth high school, to be located in Santa Rita, have received approval from the federal government, but

detailed construction plans are not known, Pierce said. The proposed site is on federal land. Pierce said the high school, which will be a "comprehensive" facility providing college preparatory and vocational education curricula, could be graduating students in vocational education by 1979.

Pierce said some facilities already at Voc-Tech will be duplicated at the Santa Rita high school. Voc-Tech's electronics lab will serve students from the central and southern parts of the island, Pierce said.

The intent of promoting vocational education at the secondary level is to make students "aware of what is available at the UOG's Community Career College," Pierce said.

Pierce said construction is expected to begin in September 1975 for a 5,000-square-foot building for health and distributive occupational courses at John F. Kennedy High School. The added facility will enable JFK students to

acquire skills to become nurses' aides, dental aides or medical secretaries or for jobs in marketing and salesmanship, Pierce said.

Construction for additional facilities at JFK providing instruction in other areas of vocational education is planned in the future, Pierce said.

Courses in marketing and salesmanship were begun at Voc-Tech two years ago, he added.

Pierce said the Department of Education can afford to train only a limited number of individuals because it has only so much to spend for vocational education.

He said he personally favors a community college independent of both the Department of Education and the university. Such a college would operate in education department or university facilities so construction of a new facility would be unnecessary, he added.

A new 12-member advisory council to take office July 1 has Michael McClure as chairman.

