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AN EXEMPLARY PROGRAM

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The present leaders in vocational education have been prepared largely through on-the-job experiences. Too often these experiences have been on the basis of trial and error. The experiences could and would have been more meaningful if they had been combined with study and discussion of their relevance with an established associate.

A program in leadership preparation has been developed in Oregon based on the principle of speeding both rate of learning and final proficiency by combining study and on-the-job experience into behavioral outcomes.

The program is designed to prepare vocational education supervisors, directors, coordinators, and other leadership personnel. It includes several facets--the heart of the program is the internship. It is during this period that academic work at Oregon State University is combined with field experience under qualified supervisors at a selected center.

Intern Qualifications

Intern qualifications are:

1. A minimum of two years' successful vocational education teaching experience.
2. A bachelor's degree or be able to complete degree within 30 quarter hours.
3. Possess personal maturity and leadership ability.
4. Have definite goal of obtaining a leadership position upon completion of program.

Intern Activities

The internship program is a means of combining practical field experience with academic preparation under the direct supervision of competent professional personnel. The internship will serve as a period of transition from formal study to full professional practice.

The academic work at Oregon State University includes full-time enrollment during the summer session and approximately one-half time enrollment during the remainder of the academic year. Credits may be directed toward a degree program, if the intern desires.

Field experience is obtained through half-time employment in a leadership training position at a local school district, a community college, a teacher education institution, or the State Department of Education. An intern's daily activities are planned to provide a variety of professional experiences guided by competent practitioners in vocational education and supervised by teacher educators from Oregon State University and by members of the State Department of Education and Division of Continuing Education staffs.

Interns have the opportunity to apply knowledge gained in academic course work to the solution of current problems in education. This program provides an opportunity to gain first-hand experience in the vocational education leadership position for which he is preparing.

Program Structure

Interns participate in individually designed programs that include both academic work at Oregon State University and practical field experience at a local high school, a community college, a university or the State Department of Education. These experiences are directed toward acquainting the intern with all areas of vocational education and the administrative tasks involved.

Since each program is individually planned, variations in length will result. The total time required will depend upon previous occupational and educational experiences and the individual needs of the intern. However, in most cases the internship consists of three academic quarters of professional courses and field experience, plus a summer quarter of full-time study. A minimum of six months' internship in one of the four types of employing agencies is required.

Administration of the Program

Oregon's Vocational Education Leadership Development Program has been cooperatively developed by the Oregon State Department of Education, the Oregon State System of Higher Education and local leaders of vocational education.

The program is jointly administered by the State Department of Education, Oregon State University, and the Division of Continuing Education. Participating interns are advised by a member of Oregon State University's Vocational Education staff from his major field of vocational education preparation. Additional counseling and supervision is provided by staff members from the Division of Community Colleges and Vocational Education, State Department of Education, administrators of participating intern centers and the Division of Continuing Education.

Financial Considerations

A stipend is granted for the summer session. During the academic school year, while the intern is an employee of an educational agency, he receives monthly reimbursement commensurate with his assignment. Out-of-state tuition is waived for this program.

Procedures for admission to the intern program include the completion of appropriate application forms, evaluation of past experience and a personal interview. The personal interview may be waived in cases where distance is prohibitive. Application should be made as early as possible, since only a limited number of candidates will be accepted each year.

For additional information, application forms and answers to specific questions, write or call:

Darrell L. Ward, Coordinator
Vocational Teacher Education
Division of Continuing Education
126 Finance Building
Salem, Oregon 97310
Phone 364-2171, ext. 1141

After a pilot year's experience, we are convinced that we have an exemplary program. The three-way partnership of the State Department of Education, local intern centers, and Oregon State University has resulted in improved relationships. The interns promise to be some of our best vocational education leaders in local secondary schools, community colleges, State Departments of Education and teacher education institutions. This experiment should be duplicated in many places--and accelerated. This is an exemplary program! Academic study and planned experiences in centers are relevant.

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