

STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



The annual Oklahoma World Trade Conference is sponsored by the Oklahoma District Export Council in coordination with the U.S. and Oklahoma Departments of Commerce.

—OKLA. DEPT. OF COMMERCE
05/22/96

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GOVERNOR SIGNS RURAL DEVELOPMENT BILL

■(BLANCHARD) Governor Frank Keating traveled to this McClain County community Monday to sign a bill that will channel some \$17 million to rural development projects and create a state Rural Economic Action Plan.

"I am pleased to continue a year-long effort to boost the economy in rural Oklahoma by signing **House Bill 1434**," the Governor said in a Main Street ceremony.

The bill will allocate \$7.5 million for rural roads and bridges, \$4.5 million for water and sewer projects and \$5 million for a Rural Economic Action Plan administered through 11 regional planning districts. The state aid targets smaller Oklahoma communities.

Keating said the REAP program and other aid contained in the bill will "go hand in hand with the tax cuts and credits on agricultural projects, family farms and businesses and marginal oil wells." Those tax relief measures, which total some \$45 million in annual savings for taxpayers, formed a centerpiece of the Governor's 1996 economic stimulus package.

—THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
05/20/96

EDUCATION

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO HONOR SCHOOLS RECOGNIZED BY ACT

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) State Superintendent Sandy Garrett announced last week that during the State Board of Education meeting on Thursday, May 23, sixteen schools whose students scored higher than expected on the American College Test (ACT) will be recognized.

Each of these high school met certain criteria in order to receive the ACT School

of Excellence honor. The criteria included the following:

The sixteen Oklahoma high schools being recognized will be represented by their individual principals. Being honored will be: Bob Dobrinski, Arnett HS, Arnett
William Ramsey, Boise City HS,
Boise City

Landon Barry, Dewar HS, Dewar
Jim Slater, Fairview HS, Fairview
Marc Hatton, Garber HS, Garber
Suzanne Coots, Haileyville HS,
Haileyville

Robert Goodner, Wilson Consolidated HS,
Henryetta

Violet Greene, Crooked Oak HS, Oklahoma City

Patsy Simmons, Pawhuska HS, Pawhuska
Grey Shivers, Ringling HS, Ringling
Terry Carris, Taloga HS, Taloga
Mark Gillespie, Turpin HS, Turpin
Cheryl Melton, Vanoss HS, Ada
Richard Hayes, Wakita HS, Wakita
A.J. Brewer, Washington HS, Washington
Herb Poteete, Webbers Falls HS, Webbers Falls

"We are asking them to come to the State Board meeting in order to extend our congratulations to each school for their outstanding accomplishments on the ACT," Supt. Garrett said.

—OKLA. STATE DEPT. OF EDUCATION
05/20/96

PERMANENT MIDTERM FIX TO BE ENACTED

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) After months of hard work and sometimes contentious debate, a permanent solution for the annual midterm funding problems has been found. Governor Keating will officially sign HB2055 Wednesday.

In addition to enacting a permanent solution to the midterm problem, Senator Don Williams and Representative Jack Begley were also instrumental in forging a budget agreement that delivered three years worth of midterm funding — a total of \$42 million — to growing districts.

"Everyone is paid up in full. Every district has gotten every penny it deserves," said

"Liberty cannot be preserved without general knowledge among the people."

John Adams
Aug. 1765

Senator Williams.

To cover a portion of the midterm costs for the two previous school years, the constitutional reserve fund was tapped for approximately \$13 million. Under the permanent solution, all future midterm adjustments will come from the general revenue fund.

—OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE
05/21/96

FIRST POSTWAR VIETNAMESE STUDENTS TO ATTEND OU

■(NORMAN) Nine Vietnamese college students will be making history when they arrive at the University of Oklahoma May 25.

According to Vietnamese officials, they are the first postwar Vietnamese students who are not refugees or the children of refugees to attend a U.S. college or university.

The nine undergraduate students, all of whom speak English, have completed at least one year of college and are either employees or family members of employees of PetroVietnam, the national petroleum company headquartered in Hanoi. The students are being accompanied to the United States by a representative of the company.

Their enrollment at OU came about through contacts made by state and university officials on an October 1995 trade mission to Vietnam. Principal facilitators were Oklahoma Sen. Billy Mickle of Durant; Dr. W. Darrell Gertsch, director of the OU Sarkeys Energy Center; Dr. Eddie Smith, OU vice president for research and dean of the Graduate College; and Dr. James Forgiven, OU geology professor.

Also as a result of the trip, research and training collaborations between the Energy Center and PetroVietnam have been negotiated and are under way.

—OKLAHOMA UNIVERSITY
05/23/96

OU LIBRARIES MEET \$1.15 MILLION CHALLENGE

■(NORMAN) The University of Oklahoma Libraries now have a permanent endowment with the recent completion of the \$1.15 million Kerr Challenge Grant from the Kerr Foundation of Oklahoma City.

Initiated in 1986, the Kerr Foundation challenge grant issued \$115,000 annually for 10 years to the University Libraries, provided the libraries matched that amount from other private donations to create a perma-

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