

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO HONOR SCHOOLS RECOGNIZED BY A.C.T.

From Okla. State Dept. of Education

■(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.

"Considering the economic difficulties these students have faced," Supt. Garrett said, "their accomplishments are extraordinary and speak well of their parents, their schools, and themselves."

Each of these high school met certain criteria in order to receive the ACT School of Excellence honor. The criteria included the following:

- ✓ at least 10 students from the Class of 1995 needed to have taken the ACT;
- ✓ at least 22 percent of the ACT-tested students reported annual incomes of less than \$18,000; and
- ✓ the average ACT score of those students needed to be equal to or greater than the Oklahoma average of 20.3 on the ACT Composite.

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, Okla-
homa 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.

Boating, continued from page 5
jackets."

Currently, when operating water vessels such as "wet bikes," life jackets must be worn at all times. However, in boats, life jackets are merely required to be readily accessible. "In my opinion, people do not like to wear them because they are hot and bulky," Sanders said. This fall, the U.S. Coast Guard will approve inflatable life preservers. "This will help out a lot... people will most likely use those," Sanders said.

Overall, Sanders explained that most accidents occur because of "bad judgment or no judgment. Two-thirds of accidents could be avoided every year, if people would use common sense."

"Don't put yourself in a bad situation and don't leave your common sense on the shore," Sanders asserted. "It's like the old saying, always be aware of what the other guy's doing." Last year in Oklahoma, approximately 15 boating fatalities occurred, "most of those happened, because individuals were not paying attention," Sanders said.

Rep. Barbara Staggs, D-Muskogee, authored a bill, **HB2957**, earlier this session, that would have stipulated that any person operating a water vessel while under the influence of any intoxicant or with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.10 could be in violation of the law and subject to punishment. However, the bill was left at second reading by the Senate Judiciary Committee. "That's where the bill died," Staggs said. However, language of the bill that included an alcohol testing provision by blood or through a breathalyzer, was included in **SB1215**, authored by Sen. Kevin Easley, D-Broken Arrow. The conference committee report has been submitted to the Senate. "The jail time was taken out of the bill, but harsher fines were added," Staggs said. "This would also make alcohol tests admissible in court."

Also at this time, Rep. Robert Weaver, D-Shawnee, has initiated legislation that would require the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety, the Oklahoma Tax Commission, the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department and the Oklahoma Department of Commerce to study issues related to personal watercraft and boat operators. **HCR1110** passed the House Tourism and Recreation Committee on May 1.

*"For every talent that poverty has
stimulated it has blighted a hundred."
John W. Gardner, 1961*

STATES POISED TO RECEIVE \$3.5 BILLION FOR JOB AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

From US Dept. of Labor

■(WASHINGTON) States will soon be receiving nearly \$3.5 billion in grants from the U.S. Department of Labor for Americans who have lost their jobs and need training or help finding new jobs.

The grants, which will be available beginning July 1, 1996, are the foundation for the nation's network of job training programs and public employment offices to serve job seekers, dislocated workers, disadvantaged adults and at-risk youth.

"In today's economy it is critical that we have necessary funds for job-search assistance, training and other employment services," said Secretary of Labor Robert B. Reich. "Whether you are seeking a first job, a new job or a better job, you must have access to solid labor market data and job and training programs to keep pace with the changes and demands of the workplace."

The funds, distributed to states under the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) and the Wagner-Peyser Act, are allocated according

to formulas which take into account such factors as civilian labor force, unemployment and proportion of economically disadvantaged citizens in each state.

Under JTPA, states receive money to operate training programs for disadvantaged and dislocated workers: \$850 million for disadvantaged adults; \$625 million for summer jobs and \$126.7 million for year-round programs for disadvantaged youth.

Summer jobs money was almost lost completely in this year's budget debates but was saved in negotiations between Congress and the White House.

States will also receive about \$1 billion to help dislocated workers get the training, support and assistance they need to find new jobs in the labor force.

Finally, about \$762 million will be made available to states under the Wagner-Peyser Act to operate the nation's 1800 public employment offices and America's Job Bank, which is now on the Internet.