

Speech -  
Vo-Tech

(APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO INTRO)

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JAMES MASON ONCE SAID "EDUCATION TODAY, MORE THAN EVER BEFORE, MUST SEE CLEARLY THE DUAL OBJECTIVES: EDUCATION FOR LIVING AND EDUCATION FOR MAKING A LIVING."

THERE IS NO DOUBT A GOOD EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IS VITAL TO THE WELL-BEING OF PENNSYLVANIA--ALL AMERICA IN FACT. AND VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL EDUCATION CAN AND IS PLAYING A LARGE PART IN IMPROVING OUR STATE AND NATION.

THAT IS WHY IT'S A REAL PLEASURE AND HONOR FOR ME TO BE HERE TO DISCUSS A PART OF EDUCATION THAT IS SO IMPORTANT TO THE FUTURE OF PENNSYLVANIA AND GIVE YOU AN OVERVIEW OF WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THIS AREA.

WE ALL KNOW VO-TECH PROGRAMS CAN HELP GREATLY TO TURN THE TIDE OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND ENCOURAGE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN CITIES AND TOWNS ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH. BUT, AS IT NOW STANDS, WHAT IS THE STATE OF VO-ED IN OUR STATE? HAS IT PROGRESSED MUCH SINCE ITS INCEPTION? WHAT IS ITS FUTURE? WHAT ARE ITS STRENGTHS? ITS WEAKNESSES?

ALLOW ME TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME INFORMATION ON A PROPOSAL NOW BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE THAT ADDRESSES TWO OF THE MOST COMMON PROBLEM AREAS IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AT THIS TIME -- PROPER LEADERSHIP AND ADEQUATE FUNDING MECHANISMS.

IT IS HOUSE BILL 1737, WHICH I AM SUPPORTING. IT IS DESIGNED TO CREATE THE OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. IT IS NOW BEING STUDIED BY THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE, ON WHICH I SERVE.

THE AGENCY WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION OF ALL SECONDARY AND POST-SECONDARY PROGRAMS IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS, AREA VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOLS, INTERMEDIATE UNITS, COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTES IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

WITHIN A YEAR OF ITS ESTABLISHMENT, THE OFFICE WOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO SET UP A PLAN FOR ADVANCED PLACEMENT CREDITS IN POST-SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOR SECONDARY TRAINING. IT ALSO WOULD DEVELOP PROPOSALS TO EXPAND SECONDARY AND POST-SECONDARY PROGRAMS INTO AREAS NOW NOT SERVED, AND WOULD ADMINISTER STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING.

SPELLED OUT IN THE BILL ARE THE METHOD BY WHICH SCHOOLS DISTRICTS AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WILL BE SUBSIDIZED FOR THE PROGRAMS. AS NOW PROPOSED, STATE FUNDING FOR EXTENSION PROGRAMS WOULD INCREASE FROM 80 PERCENT OF \$4 PER CREDIT HOUR TO 80 PERCENT OF \$12 PER CREDIT HOUR.

FUNDING WOULD GO DIRECTLY TO THE INSTITUTION OPERATING THE PROGRAM. AT THE OUTSET, \$100,000 WOULD BE APPROPRIATED TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FOR STARTUP COSTS OF THE NEW OFFICE.

THIS NEW AGENCY ALSO WOULD WORK WITH THE STATE BOARD OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATIONAL AND THE PENNSYLVANIA ADVISORY COUNCIL. IT WOULD INVENTORY AND ANALYZE EXISTING PROGRAMS TO FACILITATE COOPERATION WITH BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY. PART OF SUCH A STUDY WOULD BE TO SURVEY DEMOGRAPHIC, EMPLOYMENT AND MANPOWER TRENDS AND RELATIONSHIP TO BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY.

ANOTHER FACET OF THE AGENCY'S WORK WOULD BE TO ASSIST SCHOOLS IN OPERATING PROGRAMS AND FACILITATE INTERAGENCY COORDINATION IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION, JOB TRAINING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

IT IS A VERY COMPREHENSIVE PIECE OF LEGISLATION AND I AM PROUD TO BE ONE OF ITS SPONSORS. I PLAN TO DO ALL THAT I CAN TO ENSURE ITS PASSAGE BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

CREATION OF SUCH AN OFFICE IS VITAL TO PENNSYLVANIA RIGHT NOW. AS WE STAND ON THE THRESHOLD OF THE 21ST CENTURY, OUR COMMONWEALTH'S ECONOMY IS IN TRANSITION. THIS, OF COURSE, TRANSLATES TO PEOPLE IN TRANSITION.

THAT MEANS OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM MUST BE RESPONSIVE TO THE INHERENT CHANGES OF SUCH A TRANSITION. VOCATIONAL EDUCATION SHOULD BE A KEY IN TRAINING AND RETRAINING PEOPLE TO FILL JOBS. ESPECIALLY THE NEW JOBS -- THE HIGH TECH JOBS -- THAT MUST BE CREATED IN PENNSYLVANIA IF WE ARE TO ADVANCE ECONOMICALLY. IT IS VITAL THAT WE KEEP BUSINESSES AND INDUSTRIES HERE AND ATTRACT NEW FIRMS TO PENNSYLVANIA.

I REMEMBER SOMETHING GOVERNOR DICK THORNBURGH ONCE SAID: "WE MUST DO THREE THINGS EQUALLY WELL. FIRST OF ALL, CREATE NEW JOBS IN PENNSYLVANIA. SECOND, PROVIDE AN ADEQUATELY TRAINED WORK FORCE THAT CAN FILL THOSE JOBS. THIRD, HAVE A PLACEMENT SYSTEM FOR MATCHING INDIVIDUALS AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES."

LET ME SHARE WITH YOU A FEW FIGURES FROM STUDIES CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION THAT SHOW VOCATIONAL EDUCATION BRINGS DIVIDENDS TO PENNSYLVANIA.

ONE DEPARTMENT STUDY DETERMINED THAT STUDENTS AND ADULTS WHO COMPLETED VO-ED AND RETRAINING PROGRAMS RETURNED AN ESTIMATED \$7.6 MILLION IN TAXES TO THE STATE WITHIN A YEAR AFTER THEIR GRADUATION. THE TOTAL STATE INVESTMENT INTO THE PROGRAMS WAS CALCULATED TO BE \$25.5 MILLION. AS YOU CAN SEE, THIS MEANS THE ENTIRE INVESTMENT WILL BE RETURNED WITHIN THREE YEARS. I WOULD SAY THAT'S A GOOD RETURN ON OUR DOLLAR, WOULDN'T YOU?

ENROLLMENTS IN OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAMS TOTAL ABOUT 125,000 NOW AND IF EDUCATION PROJECTIONS ARE CORRECT, THAT WILL FALL TO 112,000 BY 1991-92. ALSO EXPECTED TO DECREASE ARE GRADUATES OF THESE PROGRAMS -- FROM THE PRESENT ALMOST 40,000 TO ABOUT 35,000 IN 1991-92. GRADUATES AVAILABLE FOR EMPLOYMENT LESSEN, TOO, IN THAT TIME FRAME, GOING FROM ABOUT 26,000 TO 23,000 IN 1991-92. PROJECTIONS FOR 1991-92 NOTE THAT GRADUATES EMPLOYED WITHIN A YEAR AFTER COMPLETION OF THE PROGRAM WILL BE 19,800, COMPARED TO THIS YEAR'S 22,000.

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION INFORMS ME THESE DECREASES RESULT FROM A GENERAL DECLINE IN SECONDARY ENROLLMENT, AS WELL AS MORE STUDENTS REMAINING IN AN ACADEMIC ORIENTED CURRICULUM. THAT MAKES SENSE TO ME, FOR THE LESSENING HAD TO BE CONNECTED WITH SOMETHING LIKE THIS, RATHER THAN TO A VO-ED PROGRAM THAT IS NOT WORKING.

AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN PENNSYLVANIA CERTAINLY IS WORKING, AS STUDIES SHOW. STUDENTS ARE LEARNING TO BECOME DATA PROCESSORS, KEYPUNCH OPERATORS, LIBRARY AIDES, DENTAL TECHNICIANS, FORESTERS, AUTO MECHANICS AND BODY SHOP WORKERS, CARPENTERS, WELDERS... THE LIST IS ENDLESS. AND THE PROGRAMS ARE BECOMING EVEN MORE DIVERSIFIED TO MEET OUR CHANGING TECHNOLOGY.

PENNSYLVANIA IS MEETING THE CHALLENGE AND RESPONDING TO OUR CHANGING ECONOMY. WE ARE NOT ONLY BENEFITING YOUNGER STUDENTS BUT ALSO THE MANY ADULTS WHO ARE DISPLACED WORKERS AND WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO RETURN TO THEIR FORMER JOBS -- BECAUSE THOSE JOBS NO LONGER EXIST. MANY HAVE BEEN PHASED OUT IN THE FACE OF TRANSITION. COUNTLESS PENNSYLVANIANS ARE GETTING THE CHANCE TO WORK IN A NEW AND EXPANDING TECHNOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT.

AND THE LATTER IS THE OBJECTIVE OF CUSTOMIZED JOB TRAINING. WE ARE PREPARING THESE PEOPLE FOR NEWLY CREATED JOBS IN BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY. BUSINESS IS DETERMINING THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING NEEDS AND GUARANTEEING THE HIRING OF THE TRAINEES, WHILE A LOCAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION PROVIDES THE CLASSROOM, EQUIPMENT AND INSTRUCTORS. WE KNOW TOO, THAT IN SOME CASES WHERE THE TRAINING IS HIGHLY SPECIALIZED, BUSINESSES PROVIDE INSTRUCTORS AND THE TRAINING SITE. IN ALL CASES, FUNDING IS SUPPLIED BY THE COMMONWEALTH TO HELP PAY FOR THE TRAINING.

AND, NOT ONLY DOES THIS TYPE PROGRAM PROVIDE ITS GRADUATES WITH THE NECESSARY SKILLS TO FUNCTION IN THE WORK WORLD. IT ALSO ENCOURAGES ATTITUDES THAT ENABLE THEM TO INTERACT COMFORTABLY WITH SOCIETY. IT ENCOURAGES HOME-SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORTS THE DIGNITY OF WORK <sup>insert original remarks</sup> ~~THE VERY VALUES THAT ARE AT~~ THE HEART OF PENNSYLVANIA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY PRESERVATION POLICY.

TO RETURN TO THE OUTSET OF MY REMARKS WHEN I QUOTED MASON, WE ARE, INDEED, MEETING THE DUAL OBJECTIVES OF EDUCATION BY PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH EDUCATION FOR LIVING AND EDUCATION FOR MAKING A LIVING.

SO AS VOCATIONAL EDUCATION STUDENTS, I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU TO DO YOURSELVES AND ME A FAVOR. HOLD YOUR HEADS HIGH WITH PRIDE.

THE PROFESSIONS AND CAREERS THAT YOU ARE PURSUING ARE IN FACT THE BACKBONE OF SOCIETY TODAY. THERE'S AS MUCH BEAUTY IN THE PLANTING OF A FIELD AS THERE IS IN THE DOCTOR'S HEALING PRACTICE. THERE'S AS MUCH MAGIC IN THE SKILLS OF A MECHANIC AS THERE IS IN THE SKILLS OF A TRIAL LAWYER,

THE KEY TO IT ALL IS TO TAKE PRIDE IN WHATEVER YOU DO AND DO IT TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY. I AM PERSONALLY DELIGHTED AND PROUD--AS A CHAMPION OF EDUCATION--TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TODAY TO ADDRESS TRUE STUDENTS OF A SUBJECT. YOU HAVE SELECTED A DIRECTION FOR YOUR LIFE. THAT IN ITSELF IS A MAJOR AND ADMIRABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT. THE FACT THAT YOU NOW ARE PURSUING THAT SELECTION, THAT GOAL, WITH A DEDICATION AND VIGOR IS AN ENCOURAGING SIGN OF JUST WHERE YOU'LL BE FIVE OR TEN YEARS FROM NOW. . . . I WOULD VENTURE TO SAY THAT AT THAT TIME, YOU WILL BE SUCCESSFUL MEMBERS AND KEY COMPONENTS OF OUR SOCIETY.

INDEED, YOU WILL BE THE BACKBONE....THE FOUNDATION....THE CRUX ON WHICH THIS LAND OF THE FREE STRIVES AND THRIVES. WITHOUT EDUCATED AND SKILLED WORKERS, WE ARE NOTHING. FOR THIS REASON, IT IS VITAL THAT THOSE IN THE VOCATIONAL EDUCATION CURRICULUMS ARE OF STRONG CHARACTER. THESE AREN'T EASY ROLES TO FILL IN A PROPER AND WORTHY MANNER. IN ADDITION TO THE SKILLS THAT YOU ARE LEARNING, YOU ALSO MUST BE AWARE OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR GOOD CITIZENSHIP THAT ACCOMPANY THESE ROLES, THESE IMPORTANT POSITIONS.



IN TALKING WITH SOME OF YOU AND YOUR INSTRUCTORS, I KNOW THAT I STAND BEFORE BOTH A TALENTED AND VERY AWARE GROUP OF YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN. IN ADDITION TO USING THE GOD-GIVEN ABILITIES WITH WHICH YOU'VE BEEN BLESSED, MANY OF YOU RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND CITIZENSHIP.

AMERICA NEEDS WELL ROUNDED INDIVIDUALS IN THE WORKFORCE AND IN THE HOME. THE CHILDREN OF TODAY AND TOMORROW NEED WEEL-ROUNDED, RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS TO ADMIRE AND LEARN FROM.

I SINCERELY BELIEVE THAT THE VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS OF TODAY ARE TRAINING, CULTIVATING AND NURTURING THESE TRAITS AND THESE INDIVIDUALS.

FOR THIS REASON, I LOOK AT YOU TODAY WITH A CONFIDENCE IN WHERE WE AS A PEOPLE AND A NATION ARE HEADED. IF YOU CONTINUE TO PURSUE THAT GOAL, INCORPORATE<sup>ING</sup> THE QUALITIES NECESSARY TO BE A PRODUCTIVE INDIVIDUAL AND MEMBER OF SOCIETY, I KNOW THAT AMERICA'S FUTURE IS SOUND.

ALWAYS REMEMBER, YOU ARE NEEDED.....YOU ARE VALUED.....AND MANY, MANY OTHERS ARE COUNTING ON YOU.

THANK YOU.

REP. TAYLOR/VO TECH/3-2-95

*Speech*

*Miss Glass  
Mr. Dutton  
Honorable  
Students  
Parents*

(APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO INTRODUCTION)

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TO OPEN MY REMARKS TONIGHT, I'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU A VERY

SPECIAL SENTENCE. IT'S ABOUT PERSONAL <sup>involvement</sup> ~~RESOLVE~~ AND ACCOMPLISHMENT.

THIS IS A TEN-WORD SENTENCE AND EACH WORD IN IT CONTAINS ONLY

TWO LETTERS. THE SENTENCE IS THIS:

"IF IT IS TO BE, IT IS UP TO ME."

THINK ABOUT THAT FOR A MOMENT....(PAUSE)

I CAN'T THINK OF ANY SHORTER, SIMPLER WAY TO DESCRIBE WHAT HAD  
TO BE YOUR APPROACH TO REACHING THIS GOAL. YOU KNEW WHAT HAD TO BE  
DONE....AND YOU DID IT.

I SALUTE THOSE OF YOU BEING INDUCTED INTO THE NATIONAL  
VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HONOR SOCIETY THIS EVENING. MY SINCERE  
CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF YOU, AND TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS YOU  
REPRESENT.

(EZ: FYI -- DISTRICTS ARE COATESVILLE, KENNETT, DOWNINGTOWN,

OXFORD AND AVON GROVE)

AS NEW INDUCTEES, TONIGHT YOU JOIN THE RANKS OF THE FIVE NVTHS MEMBERS SERVING SINCE LAST YEAR. YOU CERTAINLY MUST FEEL PROUD OF THIS ACHIEVEMENT. AND RIGHTLY SO!..

MOST ASSUREDLY, THERE ARE OTHERS IN THIS ROOM TONIGHT WHO ARE EQUALLY PROUD -- YOUR INSTRUCTORS, YOUR FAMILIES, YOUR FRIENDS...FOR THEY'RE THE ONES WHO HAVE STOOD BESIDE YOU, AND BEHIND YOU, AS YOU WORKED TO REACH THIS TREMENDOUSLY WORTHWHILE GOAL.

THAT IS WHY, BEFORE GOING ANY FURTHER, I ALSO WANT TO COMMEND YOUR HOME SCHOOL TEACHERS, THE STAFF AT THE VO-TECH SCHOOL, AND ALL THOSE WHO SUPPORTED YOU AS YOU WORKED TO EARN THIS HONOR.

I KNOW FULL WELL AS I STAND BEFORE YOU TONIGHT I'M LOOKING AT  
TOMORROW -- TOMORROW'S FAMILIES. TOMORROW'S BUSINESS MEN AND WOMEN.  
TOMORROW'S LABOR FORCE.

YES, I'M TALKING ABOUT YOU, STUDENTS. FOR YOU ARE TOMORROW'S  
CITIZENRY AND WORKFORCE. AS AN EDUCATOR, AS <sup>a</sup>YOUR LEGISLATOR, I'M HERE  
TO TELL YOU, YOU ARE AMONG THOSE WHO COMPRISE OUR COMMONWEALTH'S --  
AND OUR NATION'S -- GREATEST RESOURCE: AN EDUCATED, SKILLED WORKFORCE.

YOUR INSTRUCTORS AND MANY OTHERS KNOW YOU HAVE THE ABILITY  
TO DO THE JOB. THEY WANT THE BEST FOR YOU.

I URGE YOU, IN RETURN, TO WANT THE BEST FOR YOURSELF. FOR YOU  
WILL NEVER REGRET GIVING LIFE YOUR BEST SHOT!

WE'RE ALL AWARE THAT BEING NAMED A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL  
VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HONOR SOCIETY MEANS YOU ARE BEING RECOGNIZED  
FOR YOUR ACADEMIC STANDING.

HOWEVER, WE MUST KEEP IN MIND TOO THAT THE SOCIETY PROMOTES  
ADDITIONAL ATTRIBUTES SUCH AS HONESTY, SERVICE, LEADERSHIP, CAREER  
DEVELOPMENT AND SKILLED WORKMANSHIP AMONG VOCATIONAL STUDENTS.

ALSO SIGNIFICANT IS THE FACT THAT WHEN YOU'RE CHOSEN FOR THIS  
HONOR, CONSIDERATION IS GIVEN TO YOUR ATTITUDE, YOUR WORK ETHIC, YOUR  
LEVEL OF COMMUNITY SERVICE AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, AND YOUR  
SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AS WELL.

WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT ALL THOSE THINGS, IT BECOMES VERY CLEAR  
YOU'VE BEEN SINGLED OUT FOR THIS HONOR BECAUSE YOU'VE CLEARLY  
DEMONSTRATED A CAPACITY TO WORK HARD...BECAUSE YOU'VE SHOWN YOU ARE  
WELL-ROUNDED, COMMUNITY-MINDED STUDENTS WHO ARE WILLING TO  
CONTRIBUTE...AND YOU ARE GIVING IT YOUR BEST SHOT!

YOU HAVE COME TO VO-TECH SCHOOL FROM DIFFERENT HIGH SCHOOLS  
TO FURTHER YOUR EDUCATION AND LEARN NEW SKILLS.

AND THAT'S VERY SERIOUS BUSINESS IN OUR SOCIETY TODAY. PERHAPS  
MORE IMPORTANT THAN IT'S EVER BEEN.

FOR HOW OUR COMMONWEALTH, OUR NATION, FARES IN THE NEXT  
MILLENNIUM DEPENDS ON HOW WELL WE PREPARE OUR WORKFORCE NOW AS WE  
CLOSE OUT THE 20TH CENTURY IN OUR TIME.

AND AS FAR AS I CAN TELL FROM LOOKING AT THE LIST OF CLASSES  
TAUGHT IN OUR VO-TECH SCHOOLS AND THE VARIETY OF COURSES AVAILABLE TO  
YOU, YOU'RE BEING VERY WELL PREPARED TO GET JOBS THAT WILL ENABLE YOU  
TO MAKE A DECENT LIVING.

WHAT YOU'RE LEARNING CREATES A SOLID BRIDGE TO EMPLOYMENT  
AND OPPORTUNITY FOR EACH OF YOU.

CROSSING OVER THAT BRIDGE -- OR, IN OTHER WORDS, MAKING THE  
TRANSITION FROM SCHOOL TO WORKFORCE -- IS NOT ALWAYS EASY. BUT YOU'RE  
LEARNING THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS YOU CAN DO TO MAKE IT SMOOTHER.

ANOTHER PLUS IN ALL THIS IS THAT ALONG WITH EVERYTHING ELSE YOU'RE GAINING VALUABLE INSIGHT INTO WHAT YOU REALLY WANT TO DO TO EARN YOUR LIVING.

ARE YOU AWARE THE AVERAGE PERSON WORKS ABOUT 35 TO 40 YEARS DURING A LIFETIME? SO IT'S A DARNED GOOD IDEA TO BE DOING SOMETHING YOU CAN ENJOY!

ADDED TO ALL THIS, I HAVE SOME INTERESTING INFORMATION ALL VO-TECH STUDENTS WILL DEFINITELY LIKE HEARING. GUESS WHAT? WHEN YOU GRADUATE FROM THE VO-TECH PROGRAM YOU'RE GOING TO BE IN DEMAND. HOW SO?

FIRST, STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STUDIES SHOW A VO-TECH EDUCATION IS A SPRINGBOARD TO IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT FOR MANY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES.

A WIDENING SKILLS GAP IN THE NATION'S WORKFORCE HAS MADE VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT...SO VOCATIONAL EDUCATORS WORK CLOSELY WITH EMPLOYERS TO MAKE SURE STUDENTS HAVE THE SKILLS THE LABOR MARKET DEMANDS. *Pfizer*

COUPLED WITH THAT, TEACHING EXPERTS BELIEVE THE HANDS-ON APPROACH VO-TECH EDUCATION USES IS MORE EFFECTIVE WITH MANY STUDENTS THAN READING A TEXTBOOK OR LISTENING TO LECTURES.

AND MORE AND MORE THEY'RE FINDING THAT STUDENTS TEND TO LEARN BETTER WHEN THEY CAN RELATE WHAT THEY ARE LEARNING TO THEIR FUTURE CAREERS.

YOU'LL ALSO BE IN DEMAND AS VO-TECH GRADUATES BECAUSE, IN ADDITION TO ALL THIS, THE NATION'S NEED FOR SEMI-SKILLED LABOR IS DWINDLING. THUS, YOU'RE BEING PREPARED TO FILL THE BULK OF THE NATION'S JOBS BECAUSE YOU HAVE WHAT IS KNOWN AS "EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS."



IT MAKES ME FEEL GOOD TO KNOW THAT THINGS ARE LOOKING GOOD  
FOR OUR VO-TECH GRADUATES. WE'VE <sup>have</sup> ~~got~~ A LOT OF STUDENTS IN VO-TECH  
SCHOOLS, YOU KNOW.

ALMOST HALF THE NATION'S HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS -- OVER THREE-  
AND-A-HALF MILLION -- PARTICIPATE IN ABOUT 94,000 VO-TECH PROGRAMS IN 11,600  
SCHOOLS.

NOT ONLY THAT, AT LEAST 97 PERCENT OF ALL HIGH SCHOOL  
STUDENTS TAKE AT LEAST ONE VOCATIONAL COURSE...AND VO-TECH PROGRAMS  
ARE OFFERED IN MORE THAN 9,000 COMMUNITY COLLEGES, TECHNICAL INSTITUTES  
AND UNIVERSITIES.

SO YOU SEE, AS STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL  
PROGRAM, YOU'RE PART OF A VERY LARGE GROUP OF PEOPLE TAKING  
ADVANTAGE OF VO-TECH CURRICULUM'S UNIQUE COMBINATION OF CLASSROOM  
INSTRUCTION, HANDS-ON WORK AND ON-THE-JOB TRAINING.

I APPLAUD YOU FOR MAKING THE CHOICE TO TAKE VO-TECH COURSES  
AS PART OF YOUR EDUCATION.

NOW, IT'S TIME FOR ME TO WIND UP MY REMARKS. BEFORE I DO THAT,  
HOWEVER, I'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU SOMETHING BRITISH WRITER SOMERSET  
MAUGHAM ONCE SAID. I QUOTE:

"IT'S A FUNNY THING ABOUT LIFE...IF YOU REFUSE TO ACCEPT ANYTHING  
BUT THE BEST, YOU VERY OFTEN GET IT.

NATIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES, I  
CHALLENGE YOU TO ALWAYS AIM HIGH -- AND NEVER ACCEPT ANYTHING BUT THE  
BEST.

I WISH YOU LUCK IN WHATEVER YOU PURSUE IN LIFE.

WHEREVER YOUR ABILITIES, YOUR DREAMS TAKE YOU -- AS YOU STEP  
INTO TOMORROW -- I HOPE THE FUTURE HOLDS NOTHING BUT ACCOMPLISHMENT  
AND FULFILLMENT FOR YOU...

YES, TONIGHT YOU DESERVE TO BE PROUD OF YOURSELF. GIVE  
YOURSELF A PAT ON THE BACK -- YOU'VE EARNED THE RIGHT TO CONGRATULATE  
YOURSELF.

FOR EACH OF YOU KNOWS, DON'T YOU, "IF IT IS TO BE, IT IS UP TO  
ME"?

ONCE AGAIN, MY CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF YOU.

FINALLY, MY THANKS TO THE CENTER FOR ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY FOR  
INVITING ME TO JOIN YOU IN CELEBRATING THIS VERY SPECIAL EVENT IN YOUR  
LIVES.

IT'S BEEN A REAL PLEASURE BEING HERE WITH YOU TONIGHT.