NEW HORIZONS
SOUTH CAROLINA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT

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STATE DOCUMENTS

Training Program Places Ten As Computer Programmers

Ten pioneers in a highly specialized computer programmer training course are now working in the competitive job market, following nine months of study at the Vocational Rehabilitation Comprehensive Center in West Columbia.

The course of study, sponsored by the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation department, was designed to prepare severely disabled individuals for employment as computer programmers.

"Many of the students," according to Joe S. Dusenbury, Vocational Rehabilitation Commissioner, "were unable to find employment because of the severity of their disabilities. Those same individuals are now employed as programmers with various companies in the Columbia area."

The ten students in the first session of the computer training program were: Scott W. Blum of Spartanburg, employed by South Carolina National Bank; Eric D. Boyd of Camden, Bankers Trust; W. Steve Brodie of Hilton Head, University of South Carolina; J. "Brian" Cheek of Anderson, Citizens and Southern Systems Corporation; Dennis E. Cox of Conway, Harbison Development Corporation; Ralph N. Kelley of Columbia, South Carolina Electric and Gas Company; Peter F. Murphy, III, of Aiken, South Carolina National Bank; Michael P. Stewart of Charleston, Citizens and Southern Systems Corporation; Thomas Ulmer of Elgin, South Carolina National Bank Operations Center; and J. David Williams of Columbia, Colonial Life and Accident Insurance Company.

Lt. Governor Michael R. Daniel, who presented certificates to the students at their graduation ceremony, says, "This partnership between Vocational Rehabilitation and the business community is a true example of how government and business can work together for the benefit of our state and its people."

Dusenbury says, "we formed an advisory committee to help in the planning and implementation of this innovative program. Our Business Advisory Committee, composed of representatives from a variety of businesses and industries in the computer field, has worked very closely with the Vocational Rehabilitation staff in developing the curriculum for the program as well as with selecting candidates." They also worked directly with the students in the evaluation process, and many provided internships with their organizations for the students toward the completion of the training program.

Students were chosen for the program following a highly selective process of testing and interviewing. They attended classes five days a week, with classroom instruction as well as lab exercises designed to prepare them for the world of work.

The second session of the Computer Programmer Training Course is now in session at the Vocational Rehabilitation Comprehensive Center in West Columbia, with ten students from across the state training in this highly technical field.

"The uniqueness of the program," Dusenbury says, "lies in the ability of the staff at the Center to provide additional supportive services needed by the students, such as speech therapy, occupational and physical therapy and activities of daily living to prepare them more adequately for independent living."

Lt. Governor presents a cerificate of completion to Pete Murphy at graduation ceremony.

State Office Building Dedicated

Vocational Rehabilitation Department Complex Grows

Dedication of the building which houses the state headquarters for the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department took place Wednesday, April 17, beginning at 4:00 PM.

Henry Viscardi, Jr., Human Resources Center, Albertson, New York, was speaker for the ceremony.

The Department's State Office staff moved into the new 34,000 square foot structure at 1410 Boston Avenue, West Columbia, in December, after having been in rental space from its beginning in 1957. The building is adjacent to the Department's Comprehensive Rehabilitation Center and to the Columbia Area Rehabilitation Center.

Commissioner Joe S. Dusenbury says, "we are proud of the fact that we were able to construct such a building so economically. Cost of the building was just under $42 per square foot."

The building is being named in honor of Dusenbury, commissioner of the Department since 1976. Following ten years as teacher and administrator in the public schools of South Carolina, he began his career with the rehabilitation program in 1960 as a counselor and progressed through the ranks to his present position.

Other areas of the building are being named in honor of three longtime members of the Board of the South Carolina State Agency of Vocational Rehabilitation.

The Agency Board room is being named in honor of E. Roy Stone, Jr., of Greenville, who has been a member of the Board since 1960, and chairman since 1968. The staff development room is named in honor of H. Lucius Laffitte, M.D., of Allendale, a member and vice-chairman of the Agency since its creation in 1957. The staff conference room is being named in honor of Harry W. Findley of Anderson, who has served on the Board since 1967.

"We are most appreciative for the generous contributions from The Anderson, Columbia and Aiken Rehabilitation Center Advisory Boards," Dusenbury says. Money contributed by the Columbia Board was used to purchase furnishings for the Agency Board Room and Executive Office Suite, including several pieces of original art.

"This is the first permanent state office building in the history of the Department," according to Dusenbury, "and is a great tribute to the public and legislative support that programs for persons with disabilities enjoy here in South Carolina."

A crowd gathers for dedication of the VR State Office Building (above).

Dedicatory Speaker Henry Viscardi, Jr., presents a gift to Governor Richard W. Riley.

Corbett Named Handicapped Citizen of the Year

Governor Richard Riley and Al Corbett

University of South Carolina computer science professor Allen P. Corbett received recognition for his outstanding accomplishments in spite of severe physical limitations.

The Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped presented its 1985 "Handicapped South Carolinian of the Year Award" to the Columbia resident in recognition of his involvement in programs for improving conditions for handicapped citizens.

Residuals of polio at age 9 left Corbett with severe physical limitations, making it necessary to use a wheelchair for mobility. He also has a custom-designed van which he uses for transportation.

He is chairman of the Advisory Committee on Independent Living for the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department as well as being chairman of the selection committee for the Department's computer training program. He serves on the Legislative Committee for the South Carolina Rehabilitation Association, and is research consultant for the Legislative Committee to Study Problems of the Handicapped.

The South Carolina Handicapped Services Information System, which Corbett developed and implemented, has received national recognition. The program is a computerized resource of services for persons with disabilities to assist in locating available resources.

Spring Valley High School senior Rebecca Humphries was recognized as first-place winner in the Committee's 1985 Journalism Contest. Her article, "Work — Independence for Disabled People," was selected from nearly 100 entries around the state to receive top honors.

She received a four-year scholarship to the state-supported college of her choice, as well as a $100 cash prize. She also received an expense-paid trip to the national meeting of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped in Washington, DC.

Employer of the Year awards were presented in two categories, based on the number of workers in an organization. Carolina Commercial Heat Treating, Inc., of Columbia was selected as Small Employer of the Year. The company was cited for its careful placement of workers, training of workers and supervisors, and restructuring of jobs within the barrier-free plant, which has resulted in long-term employment for many handicapped people in the Columbia area.

Digital Equipment Corporation of Greenville was chosen as the Large Employer of the Year. Digital was cited for its leadership role among Upstate industry in hiring handicapped workers within its high-tech organization.

The Committee's Physician of the Year award was presented to Conway family practitioner Dr. Robert L. Ramseur. Berkeley High School senior Terrell M. Felkel received the Committee's Student of the Year award.

Al Corbett makes comments as he receives Governor's Committee award. Also pictured are Parker Evatt, Joe Dusenbury, June Licata, and Mrs. Corbett.

Work — Independence for Disabled People

By Rebecca Humphries, Spring Valley High School

When Billy Eubanks was born he weighed two and a half pounds.

"My mama never gave up hope for me. She carried me in a shoe box and fed me with a medicine dropper. She said probably the one thing that saved me was that a lady who stayed with us wrapped me in wool and rubbed me to keep me warm all through the night. A lot of people ask me if I have a full name, but all I have is 'Billy.' That's what my mama named me when the doctors told her not to name me because I wasn't going to live through the night," Billy said.

Billy, who is one of the more than 10,000 blind people in South Carolina, lost his left eye at the age of two and a half months when he developed whooping cough. The disease caused the blood vessel in his eye to burst. Six months later he lost practically all of the sight in his right eye. He also developed polio at two and a half years old which resulted in operations and casts for the next 15 years.

Despite his handicaps, Billy says he never thought he would not work.

"I have always had too much determination to think I wouldn't have a job. I am just like my mama."

In 1966 when Billy was 18, the Association for the Blind offered to find him a job. The job meant Billy had to move from Spartanburg to Columbia. He knew no one in Columbia and had never lived alone. He says he got homesick.

"I didn't know what to do at first. As my mom always said when she was raising the four of us after my dad died, 'Where there's a will, there's a way.' I decided to go ahead and take the job offer and get all the experience I could. I trained as a switchboard operator for one year without pay at the State Hospital. I worked as much as they needed me on holidays and whenever other employees were off, but for some unknown reason I was never hired. I think it was because they didn't think I could see as well as someone else. I finally left," Billy said.

One week later, Billy was offered a job at the State Hospital.

"First, I decided I would never go back again, but I did. This time I trained for only four months and was hired. This is my seventeenth year now working as a typist in the registrar division of the state hospital. I type all of the registration forms, physicals, discharges and deaths."

Billy says working has taught him to cope with all kinds of people and has helped him to better himself.

"I've learned how other people live. Working with people who aren't handicapped even helps them to get along with handicapped people. When people look at me, I often hear them say, 'Why is he walking like that?' but I learned to accept that. This job has been a terrific turnaround for me."

In 1968, Billy married. One year later he bought a $35,000 home, and two years later he and his wife had a son. His job has also allowed him to purchase a car, computer, and a greenhouse.

"Without a job, I don't know what I would have really done. I know I wouldn't have stayed with my mama. I would have searched and searched for a job until I found one. I probably would have cut grass or something, but without my job, I don't think I would have been able to better myself like I have," Billy said.

The only real problem he had with his job was transportation to and from work.

"Before we moved to this house, I had been riding the bus every day to work. About six months later, a lady across the street, we call her Grannie now, carried me to work in a friend's car that we used. We couldn't drive before without Grannie because of my legs and because my wife is blind. Grannie does everything for us. She takes us to the grocery store, picks up our son from school, takes us to the bank, she's just our personal taxi cab. Soon, we began spending too much money on gas, so we brought a Chevette and everything has just worked out fine."

Like most Americans, Billy has a part-time job that evolved from a hobby. On the weekends, he repairs five to 10 lawn mowers in his shop behind his home.

"About three years ago, a friend got me a book all about lawn mowers for Christmas. I studied it for a year. During this time, I had been buying parts. Then I met a guy down the street who owned a lawn mower shop. I told him I needed some ideas so he told me I could come over on Saturdays. I went every Saturday for four hours. My friend then found me 25 lawn mowers. I fixed and sold about 15 to 20 of them for $35 a piece. I want the people to see what I can do so I can repair their lawn mowers. I'm not trying to make a killing. I just want to make enough to buy parts and to gain experience. I still have a lot to learn. I hope my lawn mower business will develop in the future."

Billy advises every handicapped person to get a job.

"A handicapped person should give something back to the community. A job helps a handicapped person better himself and become a stronger person. He should make something out of his life instead of being a lump on a log. You never know what you can do unless you try. Blindness is not a handicap. It's a nuisance. Even though my wife Loretta is blind and I can hardly see, we have raised a normal child, and we have God to thank for that."

Spring Valley Senior Wins Scholarship

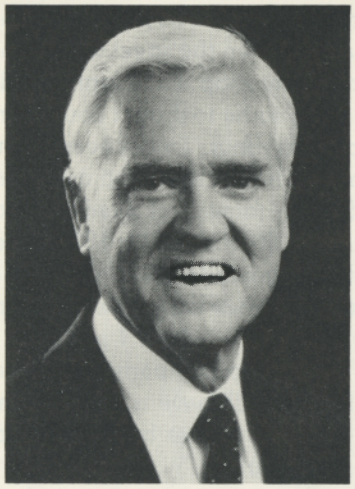
Spring Valley High School senior Rebecca Humphries was awarded a four-year scholarship as first-place winner in the 1985 Journalism Contest sponsored by the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

Her article, "Work — Independence for Disabled People," was judged as the first-place article from more than 100 submitted by high school juniors and seniors from across the state.

Miss Humphries also received an expense-paid trip to Washington, DC, to attend the annual meeting of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped. AFL-CIO contributed a check to cover the cost of her trip.

In addition, Miss Humphries received a cash prize of $100 from South Carolina AMVETS.

Hollings Wins Funds For Physical Therapy Building



WASHINGTON — Senator Ernest F. Hollings, D-S.C., recently won approval of the Senate Appropriations Committee for a measure providing $750,000 to complete a vocational rehabilitation facility for severely disabled people.

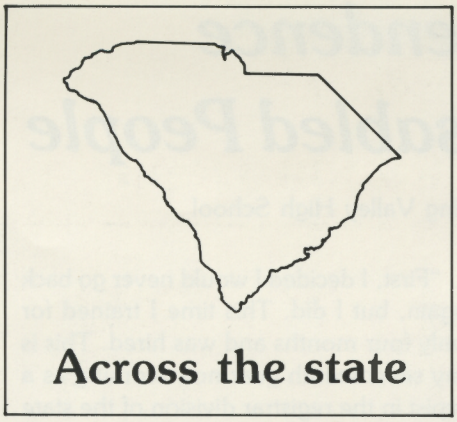
The money is to be used for construction of a physical therapy facility at the Vocational Rehabilitaton complex on Boston Avenue in West Columbia. It is designed to improve the stamina, physical strength and fitness of severely disabled people within the program.

"Severely disabled individuals are often excluded from many of the physical activities enjoyed by the general population. Yet, people in wheelchairs and others with severe orthopedic or neuromuscular disabilities are in greater need of exercise and face increased risk of heart disease, circulatory problems and kidney disorders than those able to walk and run unassisted. Proper therapy and exercise can reduce the risk of developing these serious medical conditions," Hollings said.

"Because of a lack of stamina and physical strength, some are unable to complete a full day of vocational rehabilitation, let alone a full work day. Yet, with a constructive regimen of exercise, many of these physical limitations can be overcome," he added.

The funds will enable the State to complete its comprehensive vocational rehabilitation complex which includes residential facilities and a high technology training center where disabled people are trained for jobs in the computer programming and communications fields.

The 1973 Vocational Rehabilitation Act mandated that states focus greater attention on rehabilitating severely disabled people. South Carolina has acted promptly on this mandate and in Fiscal Year 1985, 62% of the disabled population served were severely disabled. Through the work of the South Carolina Rehabilitation Department, the State has become a leader in the nation in providing vocational rehabilitation. For 12 years, South Carolina has led the nation in the percentage of its citizens served and rehabilitated and has maintained one of the lowest cost expenditure levels per case in the nation. In FY 1985, South Carolina rehabilitated 8,012 disabled persons at an average cost of $3,033 per case.



Industry Appreciation Day in **Anderson** centered around presentation of awards to those who have made contributions toward employing people with disabilities. Awards went to: Kendall Company of Seneca and O'Dell Mop Company, Contractors of the Year; AMCO Manufacturing and Hardee's Restaurant, Employers of the Year; and Clark-Schwebel Fiberglas Corporation, Employer Intervention Award.

Thomas B. Cooper, director of industrial relations at Charleston Naval Shipyard, was honored by the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped with its John E. Fogarty Public Personnel Award. It was presented at the annual meeting of the International Association of Personnel Security in Employment in Bismarck, ND. His nomination was submitted by the **Charleston Mayor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.**

Robert E. Brabham, Ph.D., assistant commissioner at the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department, was keynote speaker for an awards luncheon sponsored by the **Columbia Mayor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.** The Committee honored Michelin Tire Corporation and Carolina Concrete Pipe Company with Employer of the Year awards. Other awards went to: Richland-Lexington SPCA, Mary Mungo Volunteer of the Year Award; Dr. William S. Hall, Physician of the Year; Linda Van Deusen, Citizen of the Year; Michael Bender, Student of the Year.

1985 awards from the **Florence Mayor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped** were presented at a recent luncheon to the following: Leon Eaddy, Mayor's Student Award; Willie Ruth Evans, Citizen of the Year; and Days Inn, Young Brothers Partnership, Employer of the Year.

Larry Walker of Badische Corporation has been named 1985 chairman of the Advisory Board to **Anderson Vocational Rehabilitation Center.** Other board officers for this year are Ken Thompson, Singer Company, vice-chairman; Betty Hoyle, Seabrook, Inc., secretary; and Carl Oehmig, Anderson Mills, treasurer.

Moncks Corner Mayor's Committee held its first annual awards banquet at Santee-Cooper auditorium. Representative Fred L. Day received the Mayor's Award as Handicapped Citizen of the Year.

Anderson Mayor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped recently promoted a project to assist handicapped people in using public swimming pools. The Committee helped raise funds for installing lifts at Shepherd Swim Center and Hudgens Swim Centers in Anderson.

Columbia Mayor's Committee, Columbia Rehabilitation Center Advisory Committee and Columbia Regional Office of Vocational Rehabilitation sponsored an employer education seminar on the benefits of rehabilitation services. About 50 business executives and government officials attended the seminar at the Columbia Vocational Rehabilitation Center.

Conway Vocational Rehabilitation Center recently organized its first advisory Board.

Governor Riley Proclaims Employment of Handicapped Week

The week of October 6 through 12 was set aside as a special week of emphasis on employment of South Carolina's disabled citizens in the competitive job market.

Governor Richard W. Riley proclaimed that time as South Carolina Employment of the Handicapped Week. That week was also designated on the national level by a Presidential proclamation.

The Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped and Mayor's Committees across the state planned special activities to focus on the abilities of handicapped citizens to participate in gainful employment, as well as to emphasize the importance of opening more opportunities for qualified handicapped workers.

Proclamation by Governor Richard W. Riley on South Carolina Employment of the Handicapped Week

WHEREAS, much progress has been made through the partnership formed by the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department and Business and Industry to see that our citizens with disabilities are rehabilitated and restored to a place in society where they can be productive and economically independent; and

WHEREAS, these people, once placed in suitable employment, are able to return in taxes many times the original investment in their rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of all of us to see that the doors of opportunity are open for these qualified persons with disabilities, and that they are given an equal chance to prove their capabilities; and

WHEREAS, not only the disabled persons and their families will benefit but the entire economic structure of our State will benefit from their production; and

WHEREAS, THE Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, the Mayor's Committees around the State, and Rotary Districts 775 and 777 join together in promoting employment of the handicapped in the competitive market.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Richard W. Riley, Governor of the State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim the week of October 6-12, 1985, as:

SOUTH CAROLINA EMPLOYMENT OF THE HANDICAPPED WEEK

and encourage all South Carolinians to renew our pledge to make a year-round effort to increase employment opportunities for our disabled citizens.

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The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department offers equal opportunity in its employment and provision of services without regard to race, color, creed, national origin or handicapping condition in keeping with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

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