

# DOCUMENT RESUME

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## ABSTRACT

The secretarial instructional programs at Florida community colleges and area vocational-technical centers were reviewed to determine the actions that are needed to enable the programs to meet current and future demands for secretaries who are competent in the use of advanced office systems technology. Data for the review were drawn from a secretarial futuring conference, professional business education literature, and from existing data bases dealing with secretarial instruction and its outcomes in Florida. The review findings substantiated two concerns. First, it became apparent that secretarial programs will require additional resources and development if they are to keep pace with the technological changes that now characterize the field. The second major concern that emerged from the study was that, although there will likely be a shortage of trained secretaries in the future, secretarial work remains a low-status, low-paying occupation. This will likely prevent secretarial instructional programs from attracting a large pool of highly motivated or academically well prepared students. Extensive updating of equipment and facilities, faculty and staff, and curriculum and instruction will be required to address these problems. More effort must also be put into marketing secretarial instructional programs. (Appendixes to this report include the secretarial conference announcement and agenda, sample references, and unit and total cost breakdowns of statewide instructional resource needs for community college and district postsecondary occupations programs.) (MN)

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**Secretarial Instruction in Florida Community Colleges  
and Area Vocational-Technical Centers:**

**Meeting the Demands of the Future**

*Project # 6-2671*

**State Board of Community Colleges  
and  
Division of Vocational, Adult, and Community Education  
Florida Department of Education**

**Fall 1986**

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**Secretarial Instruction in Florida Community Colleges  
and Area Vocational-Technical Centers:  
Meeting the Demands of the Future**

**Executive Summary**

Current trends in the business world focus on the expanding use of high-powered office systems technology. The adoption of this technology, including such electronic equipment as word processors and microcomputers, is bringing about inescapable changes in the nature of office work. Secretaries, in particular, are facing dramatic changes in the nature of their daily work functions. Along with these pressures which are fueled by technological advances, the business world is also currently facing an overall shortage of qualified office personnel. It has been estimated, for example, that the next decade will bring a critical shortage of trained secretaries which could "pose the greatest threat to business since World War II."

It was these two developments --- technologically - based changes in secretarial functions and a predicted undersupply of trained secretaries --- that led the State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC) and the Division of Vocational, Adult, and Community Education (DVACE), Department of Education, to conduct a review of the secretarial instructional programs in Florida community colleges and area vocational-technical centers. The central goal of the review was to determine the actions that are needed to enable the instructional programs to meet current and future demands for secretarial personnel who are competent in the use of advanced office systems technology.

The data collection process for the review was highlighted by a statewide secretarial futuring conference co-hosted by Tallahassee Community College and Valencia Community college. Additional information was drawn from the professional business education literature and from existing data bases such as the SBCC Level I review data and DVACE Five-year-cycle review reports. Verbal and written input were also received from representatives of community colleges and vocational-technical center secretarial instructional programs across the state.

In general, the review findings substantiated the two concerns that led to the review. First, it became apparent that secretarial programs will require additional resources and development if they are to keep pace with the technological changes that characterize the field. Businesses across the state seek to hire secretarial personnel who are skilled in the use of office systems technology. Yet, many community colleges and vocational-technical centers lack the equipment needed to provide state-of-the-art instruction in the concepts and applications of office technology. And, many instructional faculty are themselves in need of updating in the use of new technology. With regard to instructional content, it became apparent that postsecondary secretarial curricula may need to be revised

as businesses within the state shift from using non-integrated office technology to integrated office information systems. This shift in equipment usage patterns will create new types of secretarial positions (e.g., "information resource manager") which may require competencies not included in existing secretarial curricula.

The second concern prompting the review focused on the projected shortage of qualified secretarial personnel. Review findings not only confirmed this concern, but highlighted the complexity of the problem. Despite increasing skill demands, secretarial work remains a low-status, low-paying profession. This prevents secretarial instructional programs from attracting a large pool of highly motivated or academically well-prepared students. Employers of the programs' students, in turn, too often report that such students lack the basic interpersonal and communication skills needed for their positions. The resulting pressure on community college and vocational-technical center secretarial programs has been two-fold. There has been pressure to remediate existing secretarial students. And, there has been pressure to market the secretarial field in order to recruit both more and better-prepared students into the instructional programs. Unfortunately, the review indicated that sufficient resources and support frequently have not been available to enable secretarial programs to accomplish either of these tasks in an effective manner.

The recommendations which follow address the problems and issues summarized above. These recommendations are grouped within four areas: (1) Equipment and Facilities; (2) Faculty and Staff; (3) Curriculum and Instruction; and (4) Marketing Secretarial Instructional Programs.

### 1. Equipment and Facilities

- a. SBCC and DVACE should provide funds to equip all postsecondary secretarial programs with state-of-the-art equipment that is consistent with business operations.
- b. SBCC and DVACE should urge all community colleges and vocational-technical centers to assess their need to renovate and/or remodel their existing business education facilities, and to initiate action to obtain any required funding.

### 2. Faculty and Staff

DVACE should establish a state priority to provide vocational secretarial instructors with inservice training in the following areas:

- 1) Advanced office technology
- 2) Methodology for instructing students in the use of advanced office technology
- 3) Basic skill remediation for postsecondary secretarial students
- 4) Methods for marketing secretarial programs to potential students and community businesses

### **3. Curriculum and Instruction**

SBCC and DVACE should appoint a statewide interdivisional task force to identify possible areas for revision of secretarial curricula to reflect continuing changes in office technology, and resulting changes in secretarial functions. This task force should include instructors from both vocational-technical center and community college secretarial instructional programs, as well as representatives from the business industry.

### **4. Marketing Secretarial Instructional Programs**

- a. SBCC and DVACE should recommend that each community college and vocational-technical center consider identifying one liaison person within its secretarial program to be responsible for marketing functions. Administrative support should be provided to market the secretarial program, both for the recruitment of students and the development of job placement sites. In this regard, the secretarial field should be given special emphasis in the development and implementation of each institution's marketing plans.
- b. SBCC and DVACE should urge all postsecondary secretarial programs to make more active use of their advisory committees in marketing the instructional programs.

## INTRODUCTION

Current trends in the business world focus on the expanding use of high-powered office systems technology. The adoption of this technology is, in turn, bringing about rapid and inescapable changes in the nature of office work. Secretaries are facing particularly dramatic changes in the nature of their daily work functions. Secretarial tasks that have traditionally been carried out with paper, pencil, and typewriter are now being accomplished with the use of microcomputers and sophisticated computer software. Similarly, more and more administrative tasks are being shifted to secretaries as electronic technology reduces the time secretaries spend with such office tasks as typing and filing.

In addition to these pressures which have been fueled by technological advances, the business world is also currently facing an overall shortage of qualified office support personnel. All available indicators suggest that there will be an escalating demand for well-prepared office support staff, but that there will not be a corresponding increase in the supply of such workers within the near future. It has thus been estimated that the next decade will bring a critical shortage of trained secretaries which could "pose the greatest threat to business since World War II."

It was these two developments --- technologically - based changes in secretarial functions and a predicted undersupply of trained secretaries --- that therefore led the State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC) and the Division of Vocational, Adult, and Community Education (DVACE), Department of Education, to conduct a collaborative review of the secretarial instructional programs in Florida community colleges and area vocational-technical centers. The review was supported through a contract with Tallahassee Community College (TCC). Information gathering activities for the review began in December, 1985, and continued through June, 1986.

The central goal of the secretarial instructional review was to determine the actions that are needed to enable the instructional programs to meet current and future demands for secretarial personnel who are competent in the use of advanced office systems technology. Specific review objectives included the following:

1. Identify recent and anticipated innovations in office systems technology.
2. Examine current and projected office technology usage patterns among the state's employers of secretarial workers.
3. Determine the skills and competencies that are required for secretaries to work effectively in technologically advanced office environments.
4. Determine the nature of the job opportunities that are available to graduates of community college and vocational-technical center secretarial instructional programs.

5. Determine the characteristics of the students who enroll in community college and vocational-technical center secretarial instructional programs.
6. Assess the implications of technological innovations and related employment issues for secretarial instructional programs in Florida community colleges and vocational-technical centers.
  - a. Evaluate the capability of existing facilities, equipment and materials to meet instructional demands, and determine the needs for new facilities, equipment, and/or materials.
  - b. Evaluate the capability of existing academic personnel to meet instructional demands, and determine the needs for faculty development.
  - c. Determine the need for curriculum modifications.

### Information Gathering Process

The process for gathering information for the secretarial program review was coordinated by staff members of SBCC, DVACE, and TCC. It was highlighted by a statewide secretarial futuring conference co-hosted by TCC and Valencia Community College, Orlando. This futuring conference included presentations by office equipment manufacturers, major employers of secretarial personnel, and secretarial curriculum specialists. Approximately eighty instructors from postsecondary secretarial programs across the state also participated in the conference, and, as a formal part of the process, provided both written and verbal input to address the stated review objectives. See Appendix A for copies of the secretarial conference announcement and program agenda. Appendix A also contains a list of all individuals who participated in the conference, along with a summary of the input they provided.

Additional information for the secretarial instructional review was obtained from existing data bases and other published materials. The SBCC Level I review data and the DVACE five-year cycle review reports provided important information regarding the current status of secretarial programs in the state's community colleges and area vocational-technical centers. More general information with potential implications for the secretarial programs was drawn from a review of the professional business education literature. Appendix B contains a sample listing of the published materials that were reviewed.



All of the information gathered was analyzed and synthesized by SBCC, DVACE, and TCC staff. The major issues and problems that emerged from the findings were documented. Recommendations to address the issues were then developed, and are presented in this report. These recommendations emphasize budget initiatives and other statewide activities which, if implemented, would facilitate the ability of Florida community colleges and area vocational-technical centers to provide state-of-the-art instruction for secretarial personnel.

## REVIEW FINDINGS

Florida community colleges and area vocational-technical centers are primary training sites for individuals who are preparing for employment in secretarial occupations. All twenty-eight community colleges and approximately thirty vocational-technical centers across the state currently offer postsecondary programs in the secretarial field. Most of the colleges offer the secretarial programs at both the certificate and the A.S. degree levels.

Above all, the review findings documented the critically important task that faces the community college and vocational-technical center secretarial training programs. As anticipated, it was found that businesses within the state have a pressing need for an enlarged supply of secretarial personnel. Beyond just an increase in the number of available secretaries, however, Florida businesses need an enlarged pool of highly competent secretaries --- ones who can adapt to an ever-advancing array of new office technology, and who are capable of assuming an expanded range of administrative and decision-making responsibilities.

Input received during the review showed that faculty from the state's postsecondary secretarial programs are indeed eager to meet the instructional challenges implied by these business trends. Yet, it also became apparent that the faculty and instructional programs will require additional resources and support if this actually is to occur. The findings that follow document the specific problems and issues that were identified in this regard. These findings are grouped into four areas: (1) Equipment and Facilities; (2) Faculty and Staff; (3) Curriculum and Instruction; and (4) Marketing Secretarial Instructional Programs.

### 1. Equipment and Facilities

If community college and vocational-technical center secretarial programs are to provide state-of-the-art instruction which meets business demands, then they obviously must keep pace with the technological changes that characterize the field. At the present time, however, a significant number of the postsecondary secretarial programs lack the equipment and facilities needed to provide state-of-the-art instruction. These equipment and facility needs are highlighted by the following review findings.

- A. The term "office automation", or "advanced office technology", is used to describe a vast array of office equipment, including electronic typewriters, word processors, microcomputers, and electronic telecommunications systems. As new technological innovations have been introduced into offices, secretarial use of stand-alone word processors has given way to the use of personal computers. The shift to personal computers has come rapidly because the PC's, when teamed with appropriate software, empower secretaries with far more capability than do the stand-alone word processors. Word processing can be accomplished on the PC's. Yet, so too can such functions as spreadsheet analysis, graphics production, and the integration of text, data, and graphics into single "compound" documents.

The next major phase in the "automation" of business offices will focus on integrated, or networked, office information systems. Simply described, these systems interconnect individual computer workstations into multi-user networks, enabling members of a network both to communicate with each other electronically, and to access information stored in central computers and external data bases. The shift from non-integrated office automation (e.g., individual PC's) to integrated office information systems is already underway, and is expected to accelerate in the near future. Business demand for integrated systems, for example, is expected to increase approximately 50% per year for the next five years.

- B. Reports from Florida business representatives suggest that current and projected office technology usage patterns among the state's businesses tend to parallel those described above. Larger businesses across the state have moved from the use of stand-alone word processors and word processing pools to equip their secretaries with individual microcomputers. In hiring secretarial personnel, then, these businesses seek to find individuals who are capable of carrying out a variety of office functions (e.g. text and data processing, graphics production etc.) using software on the microcomputer. Knowledge of word processing concepts and applications is a virtual necessity for secretarial employment.

It must be noted that office technology usage patterns differ among businesses across various regions of the state. Secretarial programs should therefore monitor local business practices closely in order to determine the specific equipment that is needed to support their instructional activities. Still, even with local variations, it is apparent that all secretarial programs must be equipped with state-of-the-art office technology if they are to provide realistic instruction which is in tune with labor market demands.

- C. Given the dramatic and pervasive influence that office automation is having on business operations, it was particularly alarming to find that many community college and vocational-technical center secretarial programs currently operate without access to such technology. Laboratory experiences with appropriate, job related equipment are an essential component of the secretarial occupations curriculum. Yet, recent DVACE on-site reviews documented serious statewide deficiencies in the equipment that is provided for postsecondary secretarial instruction. It was estimated that an allocation of 1.8 million dollars would be required to adequately update the equipment and related resources in community college secretarial programs. The comparable figure for vocational-technical center secretarial programs was 1 million dollars. See Appendix C for more detailed analyses of these statewide equipment needs.

Not only was the equipment in many postsecondary secretarial programs found to be inadequate, but many programs were found to be operating in substandard facilities as well. DVACE on-site reviews showed that six of the twenty-eight community college programs are housed in substandard facilities. Facility deficiencies were found in over seven of the vocational-technical center secretarial programs. The primary problems in most programs included deficiencies in laboratory space, lighting, and acoustical soundproofing, along with a lack of adequate electrical services to operate high technology equipment. These problems clearly merit prompt corrective action since they bear directly on the safety and health of secretarial students.

## 2. Faculty and Staff

The same forces that have created an urgent need to update secretarial instructional equipment have also created a pressing need among secretarial faculty for professional and technical updating. Faculty from postsecondary secretarial programs across the state need opportunities to update their knowledge of office systems technology. And, they need opportunities to learn effective methods for instructing students in the use of the new technologies. The observations reported below elaborate upon the nature of these inservice needs. Two additional inservice need areas --- remediation for secretarial students and methods for marketing secretarial programs --- were also identified, but are described in later sections of the report.

- A. It goes without saying that classroom instructors need to demonstrate competence in the subject matter they teach. For vocational business education instructors, this now means that they must be competent in the use of advanced office systems technology. To date, however, statewide needs for inservice training in the concepts and applications of office technology apparently have not been matched by sufficient training opportunities. Most of the secretarial faculty who described themselves as having knowledge of advanced office technology reported that they gained this knowledge through their own individual efforts. Many other instructors reported that they not only have lacked systematic opportunities to gain knowledge of state-of-the-art office technology, but have not even had access to the equipment needed to teach themselves. The severity of their situation is illustrated by the following comments -- one provided by a community college instructor, and the other by a vocational-technical center instructor:

"Please make sure that the State Department of Education understands that those of us who are not computer literate do want to be. We need HELP and support." . . . "Please help prepare us to use the computers effectively."

- B. As quickly as business education teachers themselves learn about new office technology, they must then determine how to transfer this knowledge to their vocational business education students. The development of instructional materials relevant to the applications of office technology has lagged behind the introduction of the equipment, however, so instructors typically are left on their own when making these instructional decisions. Methods used in teaching the use of traditional office equipment are not necessarily appropriate when dealing with automated office equipment. Experimentation with different approaches to teaching office automation can lead to the discovery of effective techniques, but this tends to be an inefficient process. Instructors participating in the review thus stressed their need for inservice education in methodologies for teaching students the use of advanced office technology.
- C. In addition to identifying the content areas in which postsecondary secretarial faculty need inservice training, the review findings highlighted several specific strategies that should be used to deliver the training. First, it became apparent that secretarial faculty need updated office work experiences to truly understand the new office systems technologies and their impact on office functions. A back-to-industry approach should therefore serve as a key strategy for addressing inservice needs in this area. Short-term sabbaticals to return to work environments are currently provided for teachers in a number of secretarial programs across the state (e.g., Ridge Vocational-Technical Center, Winter Haven; Sarasota County Vocational Center). Similar opportunities should be extended to faculty within all secretarial instructional programs.

Efforts to involve business and industry in delivering inservice training to secretarial faculty should also go beyond the provision of opportunities for updated work experiences. Schools could attempt to enter into creative partnerships with manufacturers of office technology, for example. Many of these manufacturers have ongoing programs designed to keep their own personnel updated on advancing technological innovations. It seems feasible that instructional personnel could tap into these programs as a means of addressing their own inservice needs.

A third strategy that should be used to meet the inservice training needs of postsecondary secretarial faculty involves the sponsorship of regional information-sharing seminars. As indicated, secretarial faculty are currently having to invest an inordinate amount of time in searching for, and developing, learning activities that are relevant to current instructional demands. Periodic seminars to bring together faculty from both community college and vocational-technical center secretarial programs would facilitate this process --- enabling faculty to exchange information about both instructional methods and available instructional resources.

### 3. Curriculum and Instruction

As indicated, teaching students to perform general information processing functions on computerized office equipment is now an essential component of secretarial instructional curricula. The importance of teaching basic communication and human relations skills must not be forgotten in the haste to keep pace with advancing technology, however. Similarly, programs cannot afford to become complacent even when their curricula are up-to-date with current office operations. Businesses are beginning to shift from using non-integrated office technology, such as individual microcomputers, to integrated office information systems. This shift will change the nature of secretarial functions, and, in turn, may require revisions in secretarial instructional curricula.

The findings that follow document these issues and concerns:

- A. Employers of secretaries continue to require most of the same office skills and competencies that they traditionally have required. This slate of requirements includes typing skills, telephone skills, filing and retrieval skills, the ability to maintain a variety of business records, and mail handling skills --- competencies that are all included in the existing curriculum frameworks for secretarial occupations. What has changed recently is that more and more of these functions are being accomplished through the use of automated technologies. The delivery of instruction in the basic office skill areas must therefore reflect this fact. Instruction in telephone skills and procedures should include information about computerized

telecommunications systems, for example. Instruction in mail handling skills should impart an understanding of electronic mail systems. Given findings regarding current office operations across the state, it is imperative that all secretarial students at least be given instruction in the application of automated office equipment for such basic office functions as word processing, data processing, and end-user document production.

- B. A focus on office technology could easily lead secretarial instructional programs to overlook essential human relations and communication skills. Yet, secretaries need sound skills in both of these areas if they are to work effectively in any office environment. Knowledge of correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation is particularly critical. Furthermore, the importance of this knowledge is likely to increase given increasing managerial interest in employing secretaries who can help compose written reports and correspondence.

Unfortunately, despite its importance, the area of communications is the key area in which employers reported dissatisfaction with students from community college and vocational-technical center secretarial programs. Their perception is that the instructional programs have "dropped the ball" in teaching basic communication skills to secretarial students. Faculty from the instructional programs, on the other hand, reported frustration in attempting to teach communication skills to the academically underprepared students who typically enter the secretarial programs (see Section 4, Marketing Secretarial Instructional Programs, for additional findings on this topic). Regardless of one's perspective, however, it nevertheless became evident that greater emphasis must be placed on developing communication competencies in postsecondary secretarial students.

- C. Instruction in the general use of microcomputer technology and enhanced instruction in basic communication skills are needed to prepare secretarial students for existing job market demands. Instruction in the concepts and applications of integrated office information systems will be required to meet job market demands that will emerge within the near future. As businesses shift from non-integrated to integrated office automation, secretarial functions will change significantly. With the new systems, secretaries will potentially have the entire information resource of the office under their control. They will still need to process information to create end-user documents. But, they will also need to have broad decision-making skills in order to determine what information to use for which purpose. And, they will need creative problem-solving skills which will enable them to decide what automated tools or techniques can be used to solve which office problems!



The increased complexity in secretarial functions may thus require a rethinking of existing postsecondary secretarial curricula. Secretarial students will need to be trained to function as resource or information managers. This, in turn, suggests that the secretarial occupations curriculum may need to be revised in two major ways:

1. A revision in content to include the skills and competencies needed to function within an integrated office information system; and
2. A revision in program and position titles to be more reflective of actual job functions.

#### 4. Marketing Secretarial Instructional Programs

Postsecondary business education programs are experiencing increasing pressure to market the secretarial field. As the following findings indicate, this pressure has developed in response to a complex set of factors. The findings also document the fact that new sources of support will be required if the programs are to carry out their marketing functions in an effective manner.

- A. Department of Labor statistics document a large and growing statewide shortage of secretarial personnel. Furthermore, the potential severity of this shortage is compounded by the fact that the skill demands for secretaries are steadily increasing. Businesses within the state thus not only need an enlarged supply of secretarial personnel, but they want secretaries who are highly capable and skilled in the use of advanced office technology.
- B. Despite this impending shortage, secretarial workers are still not granted the recognition they merit. Secretarial work is held in low public esteem, and generally not rewarded with an adequate level of pay. Review participants reported, for example, that trained entry-level secretaries typically begin work at little more than a minimum-wage rate of pay. They likewise indicated that secretarial salaries have not kept pace with the expanding nature of job demands. Employers across the state apparently still tend to use traditional job classifications and salary scales --- even though they have expanded job descriptions to include competency in the use of computerized office equipment.



- C. Given the status of the secretarial profession, it was not surprising to find that most institutions have difficulty attracting a large pool of well-prepared students into their postsecondary secretarial programs. Faculty from such programs reported that fewer well-prepared students are choosing to enter the secretarial field as career options for females broaden. The students who do enter the secretarial programs, then, often have poor academic skills coupled with poor self-esteem and low-motivation. Needless the say, faculty reported that they experience a great deal of frustration in attempting to adequately prepare these students for secretarial positions. Yet, the faculty also agreed that it will be difficult to attract a larger pool of academically well-prepared students into secretarial programs until the overall image of the field is improved.
- D. The above findings outline two areas in which steps must be taken to support the work of postsecondary secretarial programs.
1. First, to meet the challenges of present reality, faculty must be given greater support in providing basic skill remediation for secretarial students. This is a particularly critical need given employer complaints that far too many secretarial students enter the job market without adequate basic communication skills. As suggested by the instructors themselves, a useful approach to the remediation problem would be to provide faculty inservice in effective methods for working with academically disadvantaged students.
  2. Second, to enhance the long term capability of postsecondary programs to meet labor market demands for secretarial personnel, faculty must be given greater support in their attempts to market the secretarial field. Business education instructors recognize the importance of promoting the public image of secretarial work, but often lack knowledge of effective marketing methods. Even more often than this, they appear to be too heavily loaded with teaching responsibilities to engage in marketing activities on a consistent basis.

State-level and institutional support for marketing the secretarial field should thus be provided in multiple forms. All faculty should be given inservice education in marketing methods, for example, and the active involvement of advisory committee members in marketing activities should be solicited. Each community college and vocational-technical center should place special emphasis on the secretarial field in the development of its institutional marketing plans. Each should likewise consider identifying one liaison person within its secretarial program to be responsible for the program's marketing functions.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following recommendations address the issues and problems described in the previous section. The categories used to report the recommendations correspond to the review findings.

### **1. Equipment and Facilities**

- a. SBCC and DVACE should provide funds to equip all postsecondary secretarial programs with state-of-the-art equipment that is consistent with business operations.
- b. SBCC and DVACE should urge all community colleges and vocational-technical centers to assess their need to renovate and/or remodel their existing business education facilities, and to initiate action to obtain any required funding.

### **2. Faculty and Staff**

DVACE should establish a state priority to provide vocational secretarial instructors with inservice training in the following areas:

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- 2) Methodology for instructing students in the use of advanced office technology
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- 4) Methods for marketing secretarial programs to potential students and community businesses

### **3. Curriculum and Instruction**

SBCC and DVACE should appoint a statewide interdivisional task force to identify possible areas for revision of secretarial curricula to reflect continuing changes in office technology, and resulting changes in secretarial functions. This task force should include instructors from both vocational-technical center and community college secretarial instructional programs, as well as representatives from the business industry.

#### 4. Marketing Secretarial Instructional Programs

- a. SBCC and DVACE should recommend that each community college and vocational-technical center consider identifying one liaison person within its secretarial program to be responsible for marketing functions. Administrative support should be provided to market the secretarial program, both for the recruitment of students and the development of job placement sites. In this regard, the secretarial field should be given special emphasis in the development and implementation of each institution's marketing plans.
- b. SBCC and DVACE should urge all postsecondary secretarial programs to make more active use of their advisory committees in marketing the instructional programs.

## **Appendix A**

### **Secretarial Conference Announcement and Program Agenda**



WENDELL W. WILLIAMS  
CHAIRMAN

BYRON L. SPARBER  
VICE CHAIRMAN

STATE OF FLORIDA  
STATE BOARD OF  
COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Department of Education

Tallahassee 32301



CLARK MAXWELL, JR.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May 9, 1986

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Interested Individuals

FROM: Clark Maxwell, Jr.  
Joe D. Mills *Joe D. Mills*

SUBJECT: Statewide Meetings for Review of Florida Postsecondary  
Secretarial Instruction Programs in Florida Community  
Colleges and Area Vocational-Technical Centers

The State Board of Community Colleges and the Division of Vocational, Adult, and Community Education are collaborating to review the postsecondary secretarial instruction that is offered through the state's community colleges and area vocational-technical centers. The review will focus on issues that are of systemwide or state-level policy concern.

The review findings will be summarized in a written report which will include recommendations for future action. These could include recommendations for instructional program changes, state-level policy changes, or budget initiatives. The recommendations will be presented for action by both the State Board of Community Colleges and the State Board for Vocational Education.

The success of the secretarial instructional review will depend upon our ability to obtain up-to-date information regarding the instructional activities and needs that currently exist within the state. Toward this end, we will conduct a statewide review conference, which will focus upon the impact of the new office technologies on the future development of our programs. Participants will include faculty and administrators from community colleges and vocational-technical secretarial instructional programs, members of the local instructional program advisory committees, and representatives from businesses and industries that have a major impact on office technology.

MEMORANDUM  
Page Two  
May 9, 1986

We would like to invite you to attend the statewide secretarial conference scheduled for June 23-25, 1986, in Orlando, Florida. Valencia Community College and Tallahassee Community College are hosting the conference. An agenda with other details about the meeting is enclosed. Also enclosed are specific review questions that will provide the focus for discussion at the meeting.

In addition to attending the secretarial conference, your written responses to the review questions would be very helpful and would ensure that your input to the secretarial instructional review receives our consideration. You may submit such written responses to our staff at the conference. Or, mail them by June 30, 1986, to:

Chris Burton, Review Coordinator  
State Board of Community Colleges  
Department of Education  
Knott Building  
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Thank you, in advance, for your contributions to the secretarial instructional review. If you have any questions or concerns about the review, please feel free to call Chris Burton at (904) 488-8597 or (SC) 278-8597.

cbg

Enclosure

cc: Community College Presidents  
Council on Instructional Affairs

Review Questions  
Statewide Review of Secretarial Instruction

Program Quality

- \*What skills and competencies should be taught in secretarial instructional programs?
- \*What are the future trends in office systems technology?
- \*What are current and projected office technology usage patterns among the state's employers of secretarial workers?
- \*What skills and competencies are required for secretaries to work effectively in technologically advanced office environments?
- \*What are the generic skills and understandings associated with technology-based office functions that should be included in all secretarial instructional curricula?
- \*What areas of specialization are relevant to secretarial employment in the state? What skills and competencies should be included in training for these specializations?
- \*Are existing secretarial instructional program curricula consistent both with the instructional demands that derive from technology-based changes in office operations, and with the nature of employer demand for secretarial specializations?
- \*Do the academic personnel in the community college and vocational-technical center secretarial instructional programs have sufficient opportunities to update their knowledge of instructional issues?
- \*What is the quality of the physical facilities, equipment, and materials that are available to students in community college and vocational-technical center secretarial instructional programs? Are new facilities, equipment, and/or materials needed to meet instructional demands?

Instructional Programs and the Secretarial Profession

- \*What are the characteristics of the students who enroll in secretarial instructional programs?
- \*What new secretarial job titles and descriptions have emerged as a result of technology-based changes in office operations?

\*What credentials and competencies are required for the various secretarial positions?

\*Are secretarial instructional programs keeping pace with the changing nature of secretarial positions?

\*What are the career opportunities for graduates of the state's secretarial instructional programs?

\*What is the relationship of such programs to both entry-level employment and to opportunities for advancement in the secretarial profession?

\*What role do/should community colleges and vocational-technical centers assume in meeting the retraining needs of the state's existing secretarial personnel?

\*What is the status of articulation among the existing secretarial instructional programs in the state?

\*Do secretarial instructional programs provide adequate placement assistance to their students?

\*What is the typical wage progression for graduates of community college and vocational-technical center secretarial instructional programs?



**FLORIDA'S**  
**State Board of Community Colleges**  
**and**  
**Division of Vocational, Adult, and**  
**Community Education**

*Presents...*

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**FLORIDA'S SECRETARIAL PROGRAMS ---**  
**THE FUTURE**

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*Hosted By*

**Tallahassee Community College**  
**and**  
**Valencia Community College**

**June 23-25, 1986**  
**Valencia Community College**  
**East Campus**

# ***FLORIDA'S SECRETARIAL PROGRAMS ... THE FUTURE***

## ***PURPOSE***

To review the postsecondary secretarial instruction that is offered through the state's community colleges and area vocational-technical centers. The review will focus on issues of system-wide or state-level concern. It will focus on the impact of office technologies on the future development of our programs.

## ***PROGRAM and CONFERENCE COMMITTEE***

Carolyn Allen, Valencia Community College  
Dot Binger, Tallahassee Community College  
Bob Dennard, State Board of Community Colleges  
Joan Tiller, Valencia Community College

## **PROGRAM**

**MONDAY, JUNE 23, 1986**

**8:00 - 9:15 a.m. Registration**

**Continental Breakfast**

Courtesy of Gregg Division

McGraw-Hill Book Company

**9:15 - 9:45 a.m. Welcome/Introductions**

Carolyn Allen

Valencia Community College

East Campus

**Purpose of the Secretarial Instructional Review**

Patsy Agee

Division of Vocational, Adult and Community  
Education

Paul Parker

State Board of Community Colleges

**Conference Procedures**

Joan Tiller

Valencia Community College

**9:45 - 11:45 a.m. State of the Art for Secretarial Curriculum**

Presider: Joan Tiller

Speaker: Gail Modlin

Gregg/McGraw-Hill Book Company

**Group Leaders:**

Phyllis Devine

Broward County Schools

Katherine Etterman

Collier County Vocational-Technical  
Center

Deborah Hopkins

Valencia Community College

Lillian Lenhoff

Hillsborough Community College

Barbara Smith

Division of Vocational, Adult and  
Community Education

Doris Southern

Dade County Public Schools

**11:45 - 12:45 p.m. Lunch**

Courtesy of Gregg Division  
McGraw-Hill Book Company

**12:45 - 2:00 p.m. State of the Art for Secretarial Curriculum**  
- Continued -

**Anytime**

**Remarks:**

Clark Maxwell, Executive Director  
State Board of Community Colleges

Don Magruder  
State Board of Community Colleges

**2:00 - 2:15 p.m. Break**

Courtesy of Xerox Corporation

**2:15 - 3:45 p.m. State of the Art for Secretarial Curriculum**  
- Continued -

**3:45 - 4:45 p.m. Technology Forces — Office Environment**

Presider: Bob Dennard

Speaker: Dennis Daigle  
Xerox Corporation

Reactor: Caroline Collier  
Erwin Vocational-Technical Center

**5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Reception**

Marriott Airport Hotel  
Courtesy of Burroughs Corporation

**TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 1986**

**8:00 - 8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast**

Courtesy of Olivetti Corporation of America

**8:30 - 10:00 a.m. Business and Industry Perspectives**

Presider: Joan Tiller

Speakers: Judy Judy Blankenship  
Godbold, Allen, Brown and  
Builder, PA

**Speakers:** Robert Coolidge  
Jewett Orthopedic Center  
Anne Hurlock  
Martin-Marietta Aerospace  
Beth Palmer  
Harcourt Brace Jovanovich  
Kathy Simpson  
Walt Disney World  
Sara Watkins  
Valencia Community College

**Reactors:** Gayle Brooks  
Cheryl O'Berry  
Pasco-Hernando Community College

**10:00 - 10:15 a.m. Break**  
Courtesy of Olivetti Corporation of America

**10:15 - 11:00 a.m. Meeting the Needs of Business and Industry**  
**Presider:** Carolyn Allen

**Speaker:** Margo Godfrey  
Valencia Community College

**Reactor:** Julie Orvis  
Hillsborough Community College

**11:00 - 11:45 a.m. Exhibits**

**11:45 - 12:45 p.m. Lunch**  
Courtesy of IBM Corporation

**12:45 - 2:00 p.m. Exhibits**

**1:30 - 2:00 p.m. Break**  
Courtesy of IBM

**2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Office Environment of the Future**  
**Presider:** Bob Dennard

**Speaker:** Bob Vogt  
IBM

**Reactor:** Shirley Stacey  
Sarasota County Vocational-  
Technical Center

3:00 - 4:00 p.m. **Changing Role in the Office**  
Presider: Joan Tiller  
Speaker: Deborah Ingram  
Burroughs Corporation  
Reactor: Donna Matherly  
Tallahassee Community College

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 1986**

8:00 - 8:30 a.m. **Continental Breakfast**  
Courtesy of South-Western Publishing Company

8:30 - 10:00 a.m. **Microcomputer Applications for the Office**  
Presider: Carolyn Allen  
Speakers: Randy Sims  
South-Western Publishing Company  
Jack Klett  
Indian River Community College  
Sponsored by South-Western Publishing Company  
Reactors: Dot Binger  
Tallahassee Community College  
Linda Slaugh  
Division of Vocational, Adult and  
Community Education

10:00 - 10:15 a.m. **Break**  
Courtesy of South-Western Publishing Company

10:15 - 11:45 a.m. **Microcomputer Applications for the Office**  
- Continued -

11:45 - 12:45 p.m. **Lunch**  
Courtesy of South-Western Publishing Company

12:45 - 1:45 p.m. **The Electronic Office**  
Presider: Bob Dennard  
Speaker: Christina Lanier  
Olivetti Corporation of America  
Reactor: Raye Johnson  
South Technical Education Center

**1:45 - 2:45 p.m. Disabled Individuals Make the Transition From  
School to Work Through Secretarial Programs**

**Presider: Carolyn Allen**

**Speaker: Jim Barge**

**Division of Vocational, Adult, and  
Community Education**

**Reactor: Connie Jenks**

**Tallahassee Community College**

**2:45 - 3:30 p.m. Summary and Recommendations**

**Presiders: Chris Burton**

**Joan Tiller**

## **EXHIBITORS**

**Burroughs Corporation**

**Glencoe Publishing**

**Gregg/McGraw-Hill Book Company**

**IBM**

**Charles E. Merrill**

**Olivetti Corporation of America**

**Panasonic**

**Prentice-Hall, Inc.**

**Science Research Associates, Inc. (SRA)**

**South-Western Publishing Co.**

**Xerox Corporation**

Florida's Secretarial Program --The Future  
Orlando, Florida  
June 23-25, 1986

Participants

Adkins, Martha St. Petersburg Junior College	Caldwell, Frank State Board of Community Colleges
**Allen, Carolyn Valencia Community College	Carter, Rosa Valencia Community College
Andrews, Alice Winter Park Adult Vocational College	*Collier, Caroline Erwin Vocational-Technical Center
Aust, Evelyn St. Petersburg Junior College	Contakos, Kay St. Petersburg Junior College
Banks, Emma Region V - Department of Education	Coppola, Peter Region IV - Department of Education
*Binger, Dorothy Tallahassee Community College	De Bruyne, Tina Ridge Vocational-Technical Center
Boggs, Charla Gulf Coast Community College	DeLeon, Yvonne Hillsborough Community College
Bradford, Barbara Florida Community College at Jacksonville	**Dennard, Bob State Board of Community Colleges
Brantly, Milton School Board - Polk County	*Devine, Phyllis Broward School District
Brantly, Nancy Traviss Vocational-Technical Center	Dowell, Linda St. John's River Community College
*Brooks, Gayle Pasco-Hernando Community College	Ellis, Leon Santa Fe Community College
Buckner, Maurice Brevard Community College	*Etterman, Katherine Collier County Vocational-Technical Center
**Burton, Chris State Board of Community Colleges	Faulkner, Jean Haney Vocational-Technical Center
Bussell, Jan Palm Beach Junior College	



Ferguson, Josephine Valencia Community College	Lubner, Deanna Manatee Community College
Goza, Barbara South Florida Community College	Lusk, T. Jane Broward Community College
Gropper, Ida Miami-Dade Community College	Lynn, Lois Hillsborough Community College
Hafner, Linda Lively Area Vocational-Technical Center	*Matherly, Donna Tallahassee Community College
Hartnig, Lynda Florida Community College at Jacksonville	Mathews, J. Tyrone Broward Community College
Jennie Hartman Palm Beach Junior College	Miller, Lynn Central Florida Community College
Hartwell, William St. Petersburg Junior College	Moran, Emma Florida Community College at Jacksonville
Hayes, Carolyn Polk Community College	Nemmer, Sandra Mid-Florida Technical Institute
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Hodges, Pat Miami-Dade Community College	*Orvis, Juliann Hillsborough Community College
*Hopkins, Deborah Valencia Community College	Owens, Hank Orange County Public Schools
Hunt, Lois Central Florida Community College	Pausins, Dolores Hillsborough Community College
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Jenkins, Sherry Seminole Community College	Ragsdale, Mamie Seminole Community College
*Jenks, Constance Tallahassee Community College	Rhynes, Helen Chipola Junior College
*Johnson, Raye South Technical Educational Center	Roberts, Michele Hillsborough Community College
Johnson, Trudy St. Petersburg Vocational-Technical Center	Sellers, Frances Lake County Vocational-Technical College
Lang, Thomas St. Petersburg Junior College	*Slaugh, Linda Region I - Department of Education
*Lenhoff, Lillian Hillsborough Community College	

\*Smith, Barbara  
Region III - Department of Education

Smith, Ted  
Broward Community College

\*Southern, Doris  
Dade County Public Schools

\*Stacey, Shirley  
Sarasota County Vocational-Technical Center

Stone, Stanley  
Valencia Community College

Szuch, Paul  
Okaloosa-Walton Junior College

Theriault, Claire  
Central Florida Community College

Thomas, Ann  
Brevard Community College

Tiffany, Erma  
Central Florida Community College

\*\*Tiller, Joan  
Valencia Community College

Trachy, Pat  
Pensacola Junior College

Turner, Jan  
St. Petersburg Vocational-Technical Center

Turner, Marjorie  
Lake City Community College

Vessels, Shirley  
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Vitt, Joanne  
St. Petersburg Junior College

Whitney, Barbara  
St. Petersburg Junior College

Wood, Willie  
Orlando Vocational-Technical Center

Wright, Judy  
Indian River Community College

\*Group Leader/Reactor  
\*\*Presider

Florida's Secretarial Program - The Future  
Orlando, Florida  
June 1986

Speakers

Patsy Agee  
Division of Vocational, Adult, and  
Community Education

Jim Barge  
Division of Vocational, Adult, and  
Community Education

Judy Judy Blankenship  
Godbold, Allen, Brown and Builder, PA

Robert Coolidge  
Jewett Orthopedic Center

Dennis Daigle  
Xerox Corporation

Bill Flannery  
IBM

Margo Godfrey  
Valencia Community College

Anne Hurlock  
Martin-Marietta Aerospace

Deborah Ingram  
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Gregg/McGraw-Hill Book Company

Beth Palmer  
Harcourt Brace Jovanovich

Paul C. Parker  
State Board of Community Colleges

Kathy Simpson  
Walt Disney World

Randy Sims  
South-Western Publishing Co.

Sara Watkins  
Valencia Community College

Exhibitors

Burroughs Corporation  
Glencoe Publishing  
Gregg/McGraw-Hill Book Company  
IBM  
Charles E. Merrill  
Olivetti Corporation of America  
Panasonic  
Prentice-Hall, Inc.  
Science Research Associates, Inc. (SRA)  
South-Western Publishing Co.  
Xerox Corporation

## **FLORIDA'S SECRETARIAL PROGRAM—THE FUTURE**

### **Summary of Recommendations Generated by Conference Participants**

#### **TOPIC: Funding/Legislation**

1. If there are legislative mandates, there should be adequate funding to support the implementation.
2. Why is Business Education weighted funding lower than other vocational programs that are less expensive to operate.
3. If Business Education is to teach disabled and disadvantaged students, then funding should be provided for the support of these students.
4. Since the field of Business Education is constantly changing, funding must be provided for the instructors to be able to update their skills on a full-time basis.
5. In-service training of funding formulas, and grant preparation should be provided for the instructors.
6. When funding is provided, institutions need more accountability as to the disbursement of monies.
7. Funding needs to be provided for the marketing of programs.
8. Mechanism needs to be provided for course offerings that are based on something other than class size.
9. Preservation of the in-kind services program that offers coordination between education and industry. (Requiring a percentage of the fee waiver money be allocated for in-kind services.)

#### **TOPIC: Curriculum**

1. Is curriculum meeting the needs of the community/students (high school graduate, returning adult, worker requiring updated skills?)
2. Is curriculum geared towards people skills as well as technical skills?
3. Are interpersonal skills being taught as a separate course?
4. Are curriculum changes facilitated in a timely manner?
5. Does curriculum reflect current job titles within the community. Does community use standard titles/or are titles standard at all?
6. Is equipment available to support teaching of concepts?

## Curriculum Cont.'d

7. Is technology being used in all courses? Accounting? Marketing? Management? Decision-making areas?
8. Does the instructor have time to develop the curricula materials not available elsewhere?

### Recommendations:

1. Have a curriculum development specialist in business area at each college.
2. Develop flexible programs, leading to assorted certificates or degrees, that incorporate a variety of study units or competencies selected by individual students after basic studies are met.

### TOPIC: Articulation

1. Does counseling staff regularly visit public and private high schools for articulation purposes, and do business teachers give input/are they involved in the visits?
2. Does your college sponsor or participate in high school career days?
3. How is reciprocal course credit handled with university, vo-tec, high school and private business schools?
4. Do you meet periodically with your counterparts on university, secondary and vo-tec levels to discuss programs prerequisites, overlaps, standards, etc.?
5. Does your college support articulation by providing funds to host meetings and to travel to meetings locally and statewide?
6. Do you meet with counseling staff on your campus to exchange curricular information?
7. Do you have brochures on all programs offered within your department?
8. How are credits, courses, competencies, experience, etc., evaluated in the transferring from school-to-school and does your department assist in evaluating transcripts from other schools?
9. Does your school and department work with professional organizations such as PSI and LSA in recognizing and awarding experiential credit for such designations as CPS and PLS?
10. Is there a formal procedure or mechanism available for ongoing articulation with students to keep them apprised of program requirements, time limits, changes, etc.?

**TOPIC: Quality of Students**

1. Tackle image and salary problems to entice better qualified students (recognize that many more options available to females now).
2. Need to acknowledge problems of poorly qualified students and make deliberate plans for testing and planning for remediation.
3. Need to provide good vocational counseling to help students get into appropriate program.
4. Low motivation often accompanies low qualities. Think on aspects for improving motivation and raising self esteem.
5. Be cautious about any tendency to lower program standards to accommodate too weak students.

Concern marketing a program which promises little in way of image and salary to computer.

**TOPIC: Marketing the Program**

**Comments:**

1. There is a lack of publicity and marketing efforts due to factors including: no funding; lack of support by administrators, other faculty and counselors; no organizational plan to market the programs.
2. The needs and target markets must be identified and strategies developed. Who is going to do this and how can it be done? Where is funding to implement?
3. The image of the program needs updating target male population, too. Teachers are overburdened with double duties.

**Recommendations:**

1. Develop and use needs assessments of district area's needs by a marketing specialist and development of marketing plan and strategy.
2. Provide a marketing specialist at district level or school to implement marketing plan.
3. In-service training for teaching staff to market program.
4. Provide release time for teaching staff to market.
5. In-service training for teaching staff to market program.
6. Earmark funds for marketing and on-going advertising. Include teachers in any plan or assessment made. If marketing person is available, make sure they are not overburdened with other duties.
7. Contact with each other to communicate information on programs involve advisory committee.

**TOPIC: Administrative Support**

Administrative Support is the evidence of:

1. Administrative commitment to courses with characteristically low enrollment.
2. Equitable formula for determining allocation of funding for equipment maintenance, staff development, program marketing, etc.
3. Leadership training provided for person(s) working with advisory committees.
4. Use of expertise of advisory committee.
5. Dissemination of information and involvement of faculty in grant writing with assistance in writing.
6. Administrative support for updating curriculum?
7. Scheduling of classes realistic for student population in business?
8. Incentives offered for updating faculty skills in new technology.

**TOPIC: Office Tools/Environment**

1. Recommend a mandated 5-year rotation plan for the replacement of equipment.
2. The equipment reflects the needs of local community and provides necessary transfer skills/should be IBM compatible.
3. Recommend microcomputer applications training include word processing, spreadsheets, data base, and integrated software with provision for staff development and "back-to-industry" training.
4. Recommend elimination of departmental lines that inhibit or hinder necessary training for the information processing professional.
5. Purchase of additional hardware/equipment goes hand-in-hand with the purchase of the appropriate furniture.
6. Stricter enforcement of space requirements for students and equipment.
7. Facilities planning to ensure the health and safety of students and staff to include proper lighting, noise control, and climate control.
8. Recommend that total facilities be re-evaluated every five years to ensure that the school's facilities are being utilized to best meet the community's needs.

**TOPIC: Community Needs Group**

1. Evidence of ongoing communication with business and industry to support the community's training needs.  
This includes training for both entry level and advancement.
2. A mechanism for rapid response to community training needs. On-site and in industry.

### **Community Needs Group Cont.'d**

3. Is there administrative support to allow the flexibility necessary to market and implement specialized program?
4. How is specialized funding for training programs for business and industry located? Specialized fee structures may be needed to continue to produce specialized programs. What portion of the costs will industry have to pay?
5. Is there a joint relationship between continuing education departments and the business education departments to maintain quality of the specialized programs? Concern was vocalized about the quality of television presentation for skills courses.
6. Is there articulation between continuing education programs and degree programs. This can include Displaced Homemakers and nontraditional career groups.
7. May need statewide marketing effort to promote the community college as a vehicle for business and industry training.

### **TOPIC: Teachers - Measures and Criteria**

This areas is difficult to assess. Teacher performance is tied to administrative policies; equipment; other teachers in program. How do we evaluate teacher performance based on moving students from where they are to a definite performance level within a stated time frame? The teacher assessment program is stated for Merit Pay has proven to be inadequate. We looked at some measurables; trying to stay away from immeasurables.

1. Teacher/Counselor sessions - This may be an administrative process, but should be on-going for program effectiveness.
2. Enrollment - should correlate to most successful teachers in program. How much demand for the offering is a determinate.
3. Staff Development - activities as a professional duty and not be mandated from administration before participation.
4. Student organization support - is involved in recruitment and directing student activities. (Areas best to teach ethics, teamwork)
5. Visits local businesses and documents findings (gaps in class equipment and office needs).
6. Participates in advisory committees to exchange school/community needs.
7. Participates in professional organizations for updating.
8. Finally Teacher Assessment Tests for subject competency. This is a very debatable area, but is measurable.
9. Another consideration may be self-assessment to indicate methods to overcome deficiencies, as a measurable indicator.



**TOPIC: Instruction****1. Open-entry, open-exit, individualized. (Is the trend going out?) Back to Basics Problems**

1. Lack of motivation on part of the students.
2. Not enough good audio-visuals available.
3. Time consuming to develop learning activities.
4. Not enough teacher input/contact.
5. Confusion of students and teachers. (Classroom environment)
6. Orientation
7. Varied age groups - Must instruct different ways to different people.
8. FTE funding - filling up classrooms during FTE count.

**Advantages**

1. Immediate feedback.
2. Meets individual needs.
3. Gets students onto the job faster (with previous skills).
4. Adjust hours to suit your needs.

**Grading**

1. Some using pass/fail system.
2. Seems fair and more popular to use grade system (A, B, C, D, etc.)

**Suggestions/Recommendations**

1. Spend one day in front of class. Other 4 days as Learning Manager.
2. Combine traditional/individualized methods of instructions.
3. Make videos of you teaching certain problem areas or orientation.
4. Decide which subjects lend themselves to individualized instruction. May be some subjects should be taught in traditional fashion.
5. Area Voc-Tech centers set up entry of students on 9-week basis.

## FLORIDA'S SECRETARIAL PROGRAM-THE FUTURE

### TOPIC: Business and Industry Perspectives

1. What skills does industry require of an entry level employee?
  - A. Typewriting 40-65 WPM w/5 errors
  - B. Communication - oral, written (grammar, composition, punctuation, etc.)
  - C. Attitude - work ethic, enthusiasm
  - D. Appearance
  - E. Organization
  - F. Telephone techniques
2. What are the salary ranges?

Receptionist to Administrative Assistant  
\$10,000 to \$29,000
3. How important is it to be trained on a specific piece of equipment? All members expressed that training on their specific equipment would be wonderful, but not necessary.

Panel members would like a knowledge of word processing concepts and a general understanding of word processing operations.
4. What type of equipment are you using?

Facsimile, Shared Systems, Electronic Mail, Electric Typewriters, Electronic Typewriters, Dedicated Word Processors, Microcomputers, Xerox, IBM, Lanier, Zenith, Olivetti, Royal, Wang, Sperry
5. Do you offer training to your employees? Many of the members said that their company trained workers and also offered updating. Some offer seminars. Some offer cross training of employees.
6. What direction should education take in the future. What skills should we stress?
  - A. Shorthand
  - B. Dictation Skills
  - C. Proofreading
  - D. Psychology - attitudes - how to deal with people
  - E. Communications/grammar, etc.
  - F. Microcomputers
  - G. Work Ethic
  - H. Initiative
  - I. Job Getting Skills
  - J. Appearance
  - K. Being a team member

**TOPIC: Office Environment of the Future**

**Recommendation**

1. Name change from Secretary to Information Resource Manager (65-75% growth rate over next decade).
2. All students need to understand the flow of information and be able to make decisions regarding what to do with it?
3. "Compound document" needs to be added to our vocabulary and total integration understood. Networking is vital for students to work with information generated by others and for effective communication. We must be willing to take risks, use our initiative and step forth to meet current needs, and to continue to serve our students well.

**TOPIC: Meeting the Needs of Business and Industry**

1. Disseminated information regarding responsiveness to industry's needs - short courses to meet a specific need.

**Recommendation**

All postsecondary delivery systems should utilize this technique to meet the needs of their local community's needs. School, business, community partnerships are essential if we are to garner the continued support of our existence by business.

**TOPIC: Technology Forces/Office Environment**

Technology in the office environment is gradually moving toward integrated information systems. The design is changing, the cost of the equipment is decreasing, and the size of the product is becoming more compact.

The impact of technology on the present role of the secretary will be:

1. Secretaries will have to deal with 2 environments - paper (80%) and electronic (20%).
2. The future role of the secretary may be as an Information Resource Manager which would involve:
  - a. Operating integrated office systems
  - b. Manage information resources
  - c. Become paraprofessionals

Implications for teaching/training future secretaries include:

1. Develop organizational skills
2. Teach all phases of document preparation - graphics, voice imaging, a variety of formats, alpha/numerics

**TOPIC:    Placement and Followup**

1.    Too much lagg time between graduate and followup
2.    Need exit interview
3.    Program leaver should be counted when placed
4.    Need broader parameters for placement
5.    Need Job Centers for placement for all majors
6.    Need additional resources from state to assist in job placement/followup procedures
7.    Develop tracking system within the majors
8.    Identify majors as they are declared
9.    Need academic advisement by faculty and program advisor

**TOPIC:    Advisory Committees**

**Concerns:**

Advisory committees, in general, are not used to their full potential.

**Recommendations:**

1.    Set goals and objectives yearly for committee to follow--evaluate goals yearly
2.    Advisory committees are not involved enough in the school's recommendations: meet at schools, have committees develop a survey instrument to "evaluate" the program at the schools - this would include equipment, materials, supplies, curriculum
3.    Advisory committees are not normally involved in teacher upgrade.
  - a.    Involve committee members for possible potential training sites
  - b.    Advisory committees do not meet often enough.
4.    Goals and objectives set at beginning of year should take care of this. One meeting is necessary to set goals, one meeting to evaluate goals - how many meetings needed to get to this point is up to you.

### Advisory Committees Cont'd.

5. Is the committee made up of a representative group of people?

When developing the committee, have large, small companies, minorities, former students, males and females on group.

6. What is the function of the committee? What are they suppose to do?

Supply printed materials and an orientation period to new members yearly at first meeting of the year

7. Advisory committee meetings take a lot of time/preparation. The meeting itself, minutes and post meetings follow through - How can we alleviate this?

To have good programs, takes a lot of time and effort. Have several meetings a year, and to do what you have to do to have quality programs.

Combine districts and college advisory committees.

### **TOPIC: Changing Role in the Office**

Since offices of today and tomorrow will be making increased usage of integrated technology, curriculum content, and classroom; equipment purchases should reflect this technology via increased usage of networks, voice technologies, image processing and "compound documents" technology.

It's imperative that we prepare students for working in an ever-changing work environment for working not only as secretaries, but also as "information managers."

Current and future "Managers" need to be educated to understand, accept, and ideally use the integrated tools and be able to comprehend procedures and work methods most effectively used in an automated work environment.

### Statewide Problems Identified Through DVACE Reviews

\*Programs need resources to obtain state-of-the-art equipment that is consistent with business operations.

\*Programs need resources to improve/expand the facilities in which secretarial instructional programs are housed.

\*Instructors are experiencing an increased need for updating in the use of high technology equipment and methodology.

**Appendix B**  
**Sample References**

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Electronic office procedures - where technology and office procedures merge. Business Education World, 5-7.

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## **Appendix C**

### **Statewide Instructional Resource Needs for Community College and District Postsecondary Secretarial Occupations Programs**



COMMUNITY COLLEGES  
SECRETARIAL OCCUPATIONS

Statewide Review

\$1,794,390

Instructional Resources Needed

COMMUNITY COLLEGES - GENERAL EQUIPMENT NEEDS

<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>UNIT COST</u>	<u>TOTAL COST</u>
* 604	Electronic Typewriters	\$ 636	\$ 384,144
328	Student stations (typewriter size desk/secretarial posture chair)	280	91,840
* 211	Electronic printing calculators with memory	91	19,201
20	Desk copiers	1,600	32,000
* 226	Transcribing units with headsets, foot controls, and combination dictation capability	195	44,070
28	Cassette tape player/recorders	75	2,100
9	Four-drawer vertical file cabinets	135	1,215
2	Shorthand lab systems	2,000	4,000
21	Postal mail scales	28	588
-	Paper cutter	--	--
3	Office telephone systems	200	600
25	Cassette storage cabinets	159	3,975
200	Secretarial posture chairs	200	40,000
			<hr/>
			\$ 623,733.

\* Prices shown based on State Contract Bid List

Other items priced from various vendors, based on quantity purchases.

SECRETARIAL OCCUPATIONS  
Statewide Review

COMMUNITY COLLEGES - STATE-OF-THE-ART EQUIPMENT NEEDS

<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>UNIT COST</u>	<u>TOTAL COST</u>
178	Word processors	\$ 2,139	\$ 380,742
353	Micro computers with dual disk drives	1,013	357,589
197	Reader-Printers	1,000	197,000
377	Student stations for word processors/micro computers	229	86,333
177	Printer stands	87	15,399
97	Voltage surge protectors	109	10,573
89	Diskette files	26	2,314
11	Optical character readers	600	6,600
13	Projection screen for computers	3,000	39,000
			<hr/>
			\$1,095,576

SECRETARIAL OCCUPATIONS  
Statewide Review

COMMUNITY COLLEGES - SPECIALIZED SUPPORTIVE RESOURCES

<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>UNIT COST</u>	<u>TOTAL COST</u>
123	Word processing software packages	\$ 200	\$ 24,600
81	Computer software packages	200	16,200
102	Printwheels	12	1,224
353	Disks/Diskettes	3	1,059
165	Copy holders	30	4,950
471	Cassettes	1	471
324	Keyboard Screen dust covers	10.50	3,402
325	Static desk mats	43	13,975
16	Instructional tapes (shorthand, typewriting, machine transcription)	575	9,200
			<hr/>
			\$ 75,081

DISTRICT POSTSECONDARY  
SECRETARIAL OCCUPATIONS

Statewide Review

\$998,683

Instructional Resources Needed

DISTRICT POSTSECONDARY - GENERAL EQUIPMENT NEEDS

<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>UNIT COST</u>	<u>TOTAL COST</u>
* 208	Electronic Typewriters	\$ 636	\$ 132,288
468	Student stations (typewriter size desk/secretarial posture chair)	280	131,040
* 157	Electronic printing calculators with memory	91	14,287
17	Desk copiers	1,600	27,200
* 155	Transcribing units with headsets, foot controls, and combination dictation capability	195	30,225
66	Cassette tape player/recorders	75	4,950
17	Four-drawer vertical file cabinets	135	2,295
-	Shorthand lab systems	-----	-----
13	Postal mail scales	28	364
1	Paper cutter	55	55
6	Office telephone systems	200	1,200
15	Cassette storage cabinets	159	2,385
160	Secretarial posture chairs	200	32,000
			<hr/>
			\$ 378,289

\* Prices shown based on State Contract, Bid List

Other items priced from various vendors, based on quantity purchases.

SECRETARIAL OCCUPATIONS  
Statewide Review

DISTRICT POSTSECONDARY - STATE-OF-THE-ART EQUIPMENT NEEDS

<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>UNIT COST</u>	<u>TOTAL COST</u>
46	Word processors	\$ 2,139	\$ 98,394
189	Micro computers with dual disk drives	1,013	191,457
127	Reader-Printers	1,000	127,000
265	Student stations for word processors/micro computers	229	60,685
89	Printer stands	87	7,743
66	Voltage surge protectors	109	7,194
49	Diskette files	26	1,274
2	Optical character readers	600	1,200
10	Projection screen for computers	3,000	30,000
1	CAT System (Computer aided transcription)	30,000	30,000
			<hr/> \$ 554,947

SECRETARIAL OCCUPATIONS  
Statewide Review

DISTRICT POSTSECONDARY - SPECIALIZED SUPPORTIVE RESOURCES

<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>UNIT COST</u>	<u>TOTAL COST</u>
85	Word processing software packages	\$ 200	\$ 17,000
91	Computer software packages	200	18,200
54	Printwheels	12	648
262	Disks/Diskettes	3	786
200	Copy holders	30	6,000
239	Cassettes	1	239
140	Keyboard Screen dust covers	10.50	1,470
117	Static desk mats	43	5,031
1	Shorthand tapes	575	575
31	Caramates	500	15,500
			<hr/>
			\$ 65,447