

Computer Jobs Through Training to tour state

March 10, 1971

A classroom which has been training disadvantaged students in computer programming in the San Diego area for over a year is scheduled to travel up and down the State of California during the last two weeks of March.

The classroom is a mobile training facility put together by a group of staff and students at the University of California, San Diego in a 40-foot trailer truck. It operates under the title of Computer Jobs Through Training (CJTT).

The truck, normally seen on the UCSD campus or in various San Diego neighborhoods, was given to the school by a grocery chain. Its success has come, in part, from the fact that the classroom can be taken to the neighborhoods rather than asking the students to travel many miles across town each evening to attend class.

The tour, sponsored by the California State Bureau of Business Education, will offer intensive classes in computer fundamentals to some 250 high school business teachers throughout the state.

Computer Jobs Through Training offers training in programming fundamentals on an IBM 1130 computer system which is a regular part of the mobile classroom. Disadvantaged students who complete the training program are well prepared to obtain further training, at local colleges and junior colleges which will lead them into data processing careers.

According to project director, Dr. M. Granger Morgan, the reason for the state tour is that WIT is concerned with opening high entry level career opportunities to disadvantaged students throughout California.

"In high school most of these students end up in business and other vocation-education programs," Morgan said. "Anything we can do to upgrade the quality of business curricula in the high schools of the state directly contributes to improving the educational opportunities of these students and many others," he said.

Teachers participating in the special courses will receive over eight hours of intensive hands-on instruction. They will write a number of computer programs and will receive a basic orientation in the computer field. A number of computer manufacturers are cooperating in providing more detailed orientation in what project member Norman Down described as "the secret of how to get on the air with as little investment as possible."

The first stop for the CJTT truck will be El Centro. Following that the tour will work up through the San Joaquin Valley visiting Bakersfield on March 15 and stopping in Visalia, Fresno, Modesto, Yuba City and Redding on following days. On March 22, a class will be held in Eureka with the balance of the week given to classes in Santa Rosa, Salinas, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura.

"We are purposely avoiding the big metropolitan centers," Morgan said, "because these places have many facilities which can be easily organized to serve local teachers. If we can inspire perhaps a dozen of the teachers we see to seriously go to work developing programs in their local schools, our tour will have been a smashing success," he said.

(March 10, 1971)