

# Letters

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Dear Editor:

This letter is written in response to your February 1977 issue of *Educational Leadership* on Individualization of Instruction. An article, "Individualized Learning: An Achievable Goal for All!" written by L. Leon Webb and Theresa E. Howard,<sup>1</sup> refers to the ACIL process for individualization of instruction. This process is the U-SAIL, Utah System Approach to Individualized Learning. It was developed in Utah and replicated in Arizona. The U-SAIL project has been validated by the Joint Effectiveness Review Panel and disseminated successfully in and out of the state of Utah. ACIL is a direct replication effort and was validated by the Joint Effectiveness Review Panel as such.

We are proud of the ACIL project success because it reflects the diffusability of our program. The U-SAIL program has been successfully replicated in several sites outside the state of Utah. It is being utilized widely in Department of Defense (DODDSEUR) schools in Europe.

In several replications over several years time, there has been uniformly positive impact on cognitive and affective learner behaviors. ACIL is not unique in this.

Since we have been funded with Title monies for development and feel a deep commitment to instructional improvement, we have purposely left our work in the public domain. This makes us extremely vulnerable to misrepresentation.

Carma M. Hales  
Director, U-SAIL  
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear Editor:

The article "Individualized Learning: An Achievable Goal for All!" L. Leon Webb and Theresa E. Howard, *Educational Leadership*, Feb-

ruary 1977, was, indeed, a most interesting article. One would certainly believe that ACIL was the brainchild of the authors. However, this is not the case at all.

Indeed, ACIL is a replication of the U-SAIL Program of Individualized Instruction. U-SAIL was implemented in Arizona in August 1973. U-SAIL, an acronym for Utah System Approach to Individualized Learning, began in July 1970. Its purpose was to develop an effective, cost-feasible, exportable open system model for individualization of instruction, grades 1-6 in reading and mathematics. A Consortium of eight LEA'S in Utah, together with the Utah State Department of Education, is responsible for the development of U-SAIL.

The Keansburg Middle School, Keansburg, New Jersey, has had much success in the implementation of U-SAIL. We have been well satisfied with the results obtained by our pupils in both the affective and cognitive domains related to both the reading and math components of this program. We call our program U-SAIL and give credit to the person who is responsible for the development of the program.

It has been my privilege to have attended a number of Action Labs at U-SAIL headquarters in Salt Lake City, and I can state that the success of U-SAIL is directly related to the tremendous efforts put forth by the U-SAIL Project Director, Dr. Carma Hales, and her dedicated staff including Maurine Jones, Perry Shaw, Larry Stoel, Nedra Erekson, and Barbara Shomaker. There is not space for me to list all of the talented people who are the backbone of the U-SAIL Program, but they are truly professionals!

I do believe that in the interest of justice

<sup>1</sup> Theresa E. Howard and L. Leon Webb. "Individualized Instruction: An Achievable Goal for All!" *Educational Leadership* 34(5): 356-60; February 1977.

and fair play, it is vital that the truth of the matter be made known to those ASCD members who attended the Houston Conference, and visited the ACIL exhibit. Webb and Howard may be experiencing excellent results in Arizona but the program certainly was not a product of their thinking! Surely the credit for the program development must go to Dr. Carma M. Hales, who has put in so much time and effort, and her staff.

For two years now, Miami Beach, Houston, I have noted this form of plagiarism and I do feel that I must bring this to your attention. We all like to receive compliments but let us not fail to give credit where credit is due.

James Delaney  
Principal  
Keansburg Middle School  
Keansburg, New Jersey

Dear Editor:

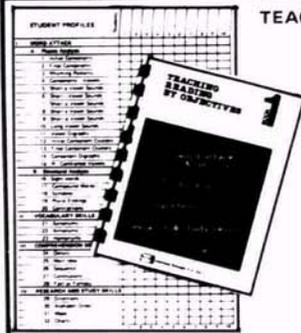
I am writing to apologize for a major error I made in writing the article entitled "Individualized Instruction: An Achievable Goal For All," published in the February 1977 issue of *Educational Leadership*.

Since the original request for the article was with reference to Arizona Consortium for Individualized Learning (ACIL) project activities, that is what I wrote. In doing so, I failed to indicate that the basic instructional system and process used in the ACIL program was originally adopted from the Utah System Approach to Individualized Learning (U-SAIL) project. The U-SAIL staff, especially Dr. Carma Hales, the U-SAIL director, was very instrumental in helping the ACIL project get a successful start in Arizona.

We have made modifications to the U-SAIL system where we felt the changes would be advantageous to program implementation. The activities described in the article, the evaluation data, and the total description of the achievable goal are, though, what is happening in the ACIL program.

Please accept my apologies for any inconvenience this error may have caused you. I also extend my apologies to the U-SAIL project, Dr. Carma Hales, and to U-SAIL staff for failing to give proper credit where it was due.

L. Leon Webb  
Director, ACIL  
Phoenix, Arizona



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