

# ASCD in Action

## CURRENT PROJECTS

**ASCD Networks.** ASCD is interested in supporting the interaction of members who share common ideas, interests, or concerns that fall within the purposes of ASCD. The foundation for networking within ASCD has been established by the high school general education network, the elementary school network, and the high school futures network. A committee is being formed to establish guidelines for the development and functioning of member-initiated networks, such as the new thinking skills network. Project Facilitator: Diane Berreth, ASCD Associate Director for Affiliate Units.

**Commission on Instructional Supervision.** This group of 75 instructional supervisors is involved in a two-year project to examine major issues in the area of supervision. The commission met in full session at the 1984 Annual Conference and will meet again in March 1985 in Chicago. Between annual meetings, members are at work on the project within the framework of eight regional subcommittees. Regional Chairs: Raleigh Buchanan, South Carolina; George Goens, Wisconsin; Lilburn Hoehn, Ohio; Henry Huffman, Pennsylvania; Gwen Humphrey, Oklahoma; Cherry Jones, New York; Anthony LaFemina, New Jersey; Theresa Serapiglia, Arizona; Loretta Smith, Illinois. Project Facilitator: Jean Hall, ASCD Associate Director for Program Development.

**Curriculum Trends Surveys.** Curricular practices in American schools vary and are continually changing. ASCD has undertaken a series of longitudinal studies of elementary, middle, and secondary school curriculum trends, which will be repeated in three-year cycles. The study of elementary curriculum trends began in 1982; a report will be released this fall. A study of middle school curriculum trends will begin this fall, and a study of high school curriculum is being designed with data collection set for 1985. Project Director: Janice Adkisson, ASCD Coordinator of Resource Information Services.

**Elementary School Network.** Twice a year 25 elementary schools from across the nation meet to plan for ensuring a balanced curriculum for all elementary schools and to design a process that ensures continual focus on the improvement of teaching and emphasizes the teacher's role in curriculum decision making. Various staff development experiences will be examined to aid teachers in developing the intellectual capabilities of their students. Project Facilitator: Jean Hall, ASCD Associate Director for Program Development.

**High Schools for the Future.** Twenty-two high schools are participating in a two-year High Schools Future Planning Network. The primary goal in examining high schools for the future is to strengthen the strategic,

long-range planning capabilities of network schools. Other areas of studies and analysis include core curriculum, improved teaching strategies with emphasis on thinking skills, and use of technology in schools. Between meetings, schools will communicate through computer networking. Project Facilitator: Gordon Cawelti, ASCD Associate Director.

**Policy Analysis.** ASCD convenes qualified educators to analyze educational policies at local, state, and national levels. A task force of educators will meet this fall to analyze four instances of state and local merit pay systems now in operation. A report of the positive and negative consequences of merit pay systems will be drafted. Project chair: Fenwick English, LeHigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Project Facilitator: Diane Berreth, ASCD Associate Director for Affiliate Units.

**Supervision/Leader Behavior Training Design.** The development of more effective educational leaders is the focus of this project, which builds on current research in organizational development and leader behavior training. The proposed plan calls for a delivery system that employs interactive electronic media. Project Chair: Dale Mann, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, New York. Project Facilitator: Lewis Rhodes, ASCD Assistant Director for Technology.

**Thinking Skills Project.** ASCD will take a leadership role by facilitating professional action in the development of student thinking skills. As a result of deliberations at the Wingspread Conference in May 1984, ASCD will establish a thinking skills network, invite cooperative action with other associations, and develop both a resource book and videotaped staff development materials. Project Chairs: Arthur Costa, California (resource book); John Barell, New Jersey (network); Carolyn Hughes, Ohio (cooperative action with other associations); and Jim Bellanca, Illinois (inservice program). Project Facilitator: Ron Brandt, ASCD Executive Editor.

## RECENT PRODUCTS

### Books

**Circles of Learning: Cooperation in the Classroom.** David Johnson and Roger Johnson. Explains advantages of cooperation over "I win—you lose" competition, and offers practical suggestions for implementing cooperative learning in elementary, middle, and secondary schools. (611-84324) \$8.50.

**Differentiated Supervision.** Allan Glatthorn. Proposes four supervisory options—clinical supervision, cooperative professional development, self-directed development, and administrative monitoring. With the principal's approval, teachers choose the op-

tion that suits them best. (611-84326) \$8.50.

**Redefining General Education in the American High School.** Arthur D. Roberts and Gordon Cawelti. Describes ASCD's network of 17 schools that participated in a two-year reexamination of high school curriculum and graduation requirements. (611-84332) \$8.50.

### Yearbook

**Using What We Know About Teaching.** Philip L. Hosford, ed. Discusses the sources of professional knowledge and how it is put to use in classrooms. (610-84322) \$12.00.

### Videotapes

**Effective Teaching for Higher Achievement.** A 6-part training program for elementary and secondary teachers. \$450 ASCD members, \$495 nonmembers.

**Improving the Quality of Student Thinking.** Teachers of an actual high school social studies class and an elementary reading comprehensive lesson demonstrate ways teachers can develop higher-order thinking skills in students. Statements by Robert Sternberg, Arthur Costa, John Bransford. \$195 ASCD members, \$230 nonmembers.

**The Principal As Instructional Leader.** Recognizes the principal's influence on school success through his or her impact on staff. Research and interviews with teachers affected by instructional leaders promote principal and staff understanding and encourage behavioral change. \$225 ASCD members, \$260 nonmembers.

**Quality Circles: Problem-Solving Tool for Educators.** Shows how quality circles can solve problems through a participatory-management approach. Identifies four steps—problem selection, problem analysis, solution selection, and management presentation—used in the process and includes comments from superintendents, principals, teachers, and national quality circles trainers on why they are effective. \$225 ASCD members, \$260 nonmembers.

## UPCOMING NATIONAL CURRICULUM STUDY INSTITUTES

**Career Ladders/Merit Pay.** Washington, D.C., October 18-19.

**Effective Teaching for Higher Achievement.** San Francisco, October 24-25.

**School Effectiveness and School Improvement.** Chicago, October 29-30.

**Quality Circles in Education.** Anaheim, November 1-2.

**Planning for the Teaching of Thinking.** Tampa, November 8-9.

**Effective Staff Development Practices.** Houston, November 15-16.

**Futures Planning for Schools.** Orlando, November 29-30.

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