CURRENT PROJECTS

ASCD Networks. A Networks Advisory Committee is now accepting applications for member-initiated networks whose goals are congruent with those of ASCD’s. Application materials are available from ASCD. 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. Project Facilitator: Jean Hall, ASCD Associate Director for Program Development.

Curriculum Trends Surveys. 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, Acting Assistant Director for Research and Information.

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 teachers role in curriculum decision making. 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 is to strengthen the strategic, long-range planning capabilities of network schools. Other areas of analysis include core curriculum, improved teaching strategies, and use of technology in schools. Schools will communicate through computer networking. Project Facilitator: Gordon Cavelti, ASCD Executive Director.

Policy Analysis. ASCD has recently published Incentives for Excellence in America’s Schools, a report of the ASCD Policy Task Force on Merit Pay and Career Ladders. A new task force will be meeting to analyze the consequences of increased secondary academic requirements. 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 supports efforts to develop thinking skills. Arthur Costa, California, is editing a resource book to be sent to comprehensive members in 1985. Jim Bellanca, Illinois, chairs a committee to design videotapes for staff development. John Barell, New Jersey, is organizing a national network on teaching thinking. (To join, write to John Barell, Montclair State College, Upper Montclair, NJ 07043.) Project Facilitator: Ron Brandl, ASCD Executive Editor.

RECENT PRODUCTS

Books

Teachers, Their World, and Their Work. Ann Lieberman and Lynne Miller offer a pragmatic view of the lives of elementary and secondary teachers and discuss the implications of everyday realities for school improvement. (611-84334) $9.50

Differentiated Supervision. Allan Glathorn proposes four supervisory options—clinical supervision, cooperative professional development, self-directed development, and administrative monitoring. With the principal’s approval, teachers choose the option that suits them best. (611-84326) $8.50

Redefining General Education in the American High School. Arthur D. Roberts and Gordon Cavelti. 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

Videotapes

School Improvement Through Staff Development. Describes a building-level process for preparing staff to make long-lasting changes. Goes on-site in four divergent communities to show how staff can best be involved in planning and trained to implement changes and incorporate them into the daily operations of the school. $225 ASCD members, $260 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 natural quality circles trainers on why they are effective. $225 ASCD members, $260 nonmembers.

UPCOMING NATIONAL CURRICULUM STUDY INSTITUTES

The following are pre-conference NCISIs, which will be held in Chicago on March 21 and 22:

- Increasing Teaching Effectiveness
- Planning for Curriculum Improvement in Schools
- Women’s Leadership
- Teaching Thinking Skills
- Implementing and Improving Middle Schools
- Effective Teaching for Higher Achievement
- Differentiated Supervision

Other Upcoming NCISIs:
Outcome-Based Schooling: Focus on Excellence. Philadelphia, March 28–29
Effective Teaching for Higher Achievement. Albuquerque, April 25–26
Approaches to School Improvement. Pittsburgh, April 29–30
The Principal as Instructional Leader. Kansas City, Mo., May 9–10
Teacher Motivation. Denver, May 16–17
School Improvement: Focus on Teachers. Nashville, May 30–31
Instructional Improvement. Indianapolis, June 6–7
Teacher Evaluation. Detroit, June 10–11

UPCOMING ANNUAL CONFERENCES

1985, Chicago, March 23–26
1986, San Francisco, March 1–4
1987, New Orleans, March 21–24
1988, Boston, March 12–15
1989, Orlando, March 11–14
1990, San Antonio, March 5–6