ASCD in Action

CURRENT PROJECTS

ASCD Networks. The Networks Advisory Committee is now accepting applications for member-initiated networks whose goals are congruent with those of ASCD. Application materials are available from ASCD. Project Facilitator: Diane Berreth, ASCD Associate Director.

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 at the annual conference and has been meeting quarterly. Members are working on a National Curriculum Study Institute on supervision, a network catalog of supervision practices, programs and policies, a proposal for a handbook on supervision, and identifying competencies for supervisors. *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, to be repeated in three-year cycles. The study of elementary curriculum trends was reported in the April 1985 *Curriculum Update*. To receive the report, send $1 and a self-addressed stamped envelope to ASCD Fulfillment Department, 125 N. West St., Alexandria, VA 22314. A study of high school trends, presently underway, will be released this spring. A study of middle school trends will begin later in 1986. Project Director: Janice Adkisson, Manager 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 teacher's role in curriculum decision making. Project Facilitator: Jean Hall, ASCD Associate Director for Program Development.

High Schools for the Future. Twenty-two high school teams, participating in a two-year High Schools Future Planning Network, will hold their final meeting in San Francisco just prior to the annual conference. Representatives will report on the status of their planning efforts in school organization, curriculum, improving teaching, and use of educational technology. A forthcoming issue of *Update* will summarize for members the major results of their strategic planning work.

Policy Analysis. ASCD has recently published its fourth analysis, *With Consequences For All*, a report of the ASCD Task Force on Increased High School Graduation Requirements. A new panel is now meeting on the efficacy of recent state education policy initiatives. Project Facilitator: Diane Berreth, ASCD Associate Director.

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.

Teaching Thinking. Teaching thinking is a major program emphasis in ASCD's new five-year plan. A statement that can be adapted by local educators to explain this idea to the public appeared in the January *ASCD Update*. A resource book, *Developing Minds*, was published in the fall and a new four-part video program, Teaching Skillful Thinking, is now available from ASCD. (Both are listed under Recent Products.) ASCD members may join a national network on teaching thinking by sending $20.00 to John Barell, Montclair State College, Upper Montclair, NJ 07043.

More than 20 education organizations convened by ASCD are collaborating on several other projects, including defining an array of thinking skills useful to curriculum developers, working with publishers to improve textbooks and tests, encouraging needed research, and incorporating the teaching of thinking in teacher education. Information about each of these will be reported in *ASCD Update* and other publications as it becomes available. Project Facilitator: Ron Brandt, ASCD Executive Editor.

RECENT PRODUCTS

Books

Marching to Different Drummers, by Pat Burke Guild and Stephen Garger. Examines the implications of teaching, learning, and leadership style differences; provides examples of various style types, and discusses issues and applications of models of style. (611-85410) $7.50.

Improving Teaching, 1986 ASCD yearbook, edited by Karen Zumwalt. Twelve authors respond to a hypothetical staff development activity in which teachers request assistance from consultants to help them improve their teaching. (610-86001) $13.00.

Developing Minds: A Resource Book for Teaching Thinking, edited by Arthur L. Costa. Fifty-six contributing authors discuss rationale, philosophy, programs, and resources for instituting thinking skills programs in schools. (611-85362) $19.95.

Essays on the Intellect, edited by Frances R. Link. Seven essays on a range of topics and interpretations of research related to intellectual development. (611-85408) $5.00.

Videotapes

Teaching Skillful Thinking. A four-part series that analyzes issues related to teaching thinking, features leading researchers and program developers, provides classroom scenes of exemplary practices, and highlights the consequences of teaching for thinking. Entire set of four tapes: $695 ASCD members, $795 nonmembers.

The Pitfalls of Textbook Adoption. Describes how publishers determine textbook content, the services publishers provide to school districts, and ten pitfalls that can sabotage the selection process. $195 ASCD members, $225 nonmembers.

For detailed information on these and other resources, see the new 1986 ASCD Products Catalog, being mailed to all members later this month.

UPCOMING NATIONAL CURRICULUM STUDY INSTITUTES

Curriculum for Early Childhood Programs. Alexandria, March 13–14.
Establishing a Favorable Climate for Effective Supervision. Las Vegas, March 20–21.
Curriculum Evaluation. Indianapolis, (March 24–25)
Outcome-Based Programs: Principles, Practices, and Successes. Chicago, April 3–4.
Teaching Strategies for Critical and Creative Thinking. Washington, D.C., April 10–12.
Systematic Curriculum Planning. New York, April 15–16.
Essentials of Effective School Leadership. Annapolis, April 21–22.
Skills for Instructional Improvement. Williamsburg, April 28–May 1.

UPCOMING ANNUAL CONFERENCES

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 3–6
1991, San Francisco, March 16–19
1992, New Orleans, March 7–10
1993, Washington, D.C., March 27–30.

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