

# ASCD in Action

## CURRENT PROJECTS

**ASCD Networks.** The Networks Advisory Committee will announce newly funded ASCD networks this month. Applications for 1986-87 networks are available. Project Facilitator: Diane G. Berreth, ASCD Director of Field Services.

**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.

**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 year. 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.

**High Schools for the Future.** Twenty-two high school teams, participating in a two-year High Schools Future Planning Network held their final meeting in San Francisco just prior to the annual conference. Representatives reported 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.** An expert panel of policy analysts is completing work on ASCD's fifth analysis which will be published in September. The new paper will review several recent state education policy initiatives and provide readers with

information on conducting analyses at the state and local level. Project Facilitator: Diane G. Berreth, ASCD Director of Field Services.

**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* and is available on request (send SSA envelope). 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 a check for \$10 made out to ASCD Network on Teaching Thinking 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

**ASCD in Retrospect: Contributions to the History of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development**, edited by William Van Til. Eleven authors chronicle 40 years of ASCD history, providing a microcosm of American education and society. (611-86014) \$8.00.

**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.

**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.

**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 Reading as Thinking.** Translates current theory and research on reading comprehension into a practical instructional model for classroom use. Researchers and program developers explain a fresh conception of the reading process; excellent teachers demonstrate recommended strategies. Includes materials for conducting staff development inservice. \$225 ASCD members, \$260 nonmembers.

**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.

## UPCOMING NATIONAL CURRICULUM STUDY INSTITUTES

**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.

**Curriculum Planning and Implementation: A Practitioner's Workshop.** New Orleans, May 5-7.

**Learning Styles and Teaching Strategies: Fulfilling the Educational Promise.** St. Louis, May 12-13.

## UPCOMING ANNUAL CONFERENCES

1987, New Orleans, March 21-24

1988, Boston, March 12-15

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