

ASCD in Action

CURRENT PROJECTS

ASCD Networks. The Networks Advisory Committee recently funded six ASCD networks: Arts in Education Network, Clearinghouse on Learning Styles and Brain Behavior, Staff Development Network, Curriculum Teachers' Network, ASCD Network—Equity Issues and Women in Educational Leadership, and Network on Instructional Supervision. Applications for 1986-87 networks are now available. Project Facilitator: Diane G. Berreth, 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 Studies. ASCD has undertaken a series of longitudinal studies of elementary, middle, and secondary school curriculum trends that will be repeated in five-year cycles. The elementary study and the secondary study were reported in the April 1985 and August 1986 *Curriculum Updates*, respectively. Copies of the reports are available from the ASCD Fulfillment Department. Send \$1 for each report and a stamped, self-addressed envelope. A study of middle level schools is underway. Preliminary results will be available at the ASCD New Orleans Conference in March. Project Facilitator: Janice Adkisson, Manager for Research and Information.

Education and Care of Young Children. After considering population, social and learning trends, ASCD identified the education and care of young children as a major program emphasis in its strategic plan. The topic will be the theme of the 1986 November issue of *Educational Leadership*. A conference exploring effective programs for young children is planned for April 1987. Information will be reported in *ASCD Update* and other publications as it becomes available. Project Facilitator: Janice Adkisson, Manager for Research and Information.

Elementary Schools Thinking Skills Consortium. ASCD is accepting applications from elementary schools interested in joining a consortium of 25 schools that will develop and implement a plan for thinking skills in their curriculum. Each selected school will send a four-person team to meetings held twice a year for two years. Applications are due October 24,

1986. To receive an application form and additional information, contact Project Facilitator: Janice Adkisson, Manager for Research and Information.

Middle School Futures Planning Consortium. Beginning in October, 25 middle-level schools from around the nation launch a two-year effort to enhance the strategic-planning capability of the middle school faculties by assisting them in collegial fashion to design middle school education appropriate to the future lives of their students. Each school will produce a long-range plan that focuses on: (1) organizing the school, (2) improving the core curriculum, (3) planning for sustained improvement of teaching, and (4) making better use of educational technology. Project Facilitator: Gordon Cawelti, Executive Director.

Policy Analysis. An expert panel of policy analysts has completed work on ASCD's fifth analysis which is now available. The new paper, *School Reform Policy: A Call for Reason*, reviews several recent state education policy initiatives and provides readers with information on conducting analyses at the state and local level. Project Facilitator: Diane G. Berreth, 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.

Dissertation Awards. Each year at the annual conference ASCD presents awards to authors of outstanding dissertations in the areas of curriculum, supervision, and instruction. To be eligible, a dissertation must have been completed during the academic year of 1 September 1985 to 31 August 1986. Abstracts must be submitted by 1 December 1986. To receive guidelines for submission of abstracts contact Project Facilitator: Janice Adkisson, Manager for Research and Information.

Teaching Thinking. Teaching thinking is a major program emphasis in ASCD's new five-year plan. 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.

To help define and solve implementation problems, ASCD is forming a consortium of 25 elementary schools committed

to incorporate the teaching of thinking in their curriculums. Deadline for applications is October 31. For application forms write to Janice Adkisson, manager of research and information, ASCD.

Some 27 education organizations convened by ASCD are collaborating on several projects, including development of a framework for curriculum and staff development. The product of that effort, *Dimensions of Thinking*, will be published as a comprehensive member book in the spring of 1987. Other goals of the Collaborative include 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

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.

UPCOMING ANNUAL CONFERENCES

1987, New Orleans, March 21-24
1992, New Orleans, March 7-10

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