

ASCD in Action

FOCUS AREAS OF ASCD LONG-RANGE PLANNING

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 a conference planned for April 1987. Information will be reported in *ASCD Update*.

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.

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.

Leadership/Supervision Task Force. With its first meeting in September, this group began a three-year evaluation of existing ASCD services in supervision and planning improvement activities. It will consider developing a plan to recognize proficiencies in the specialized areas of curriculum and supervision. Project Facilitator: Gordon Cawelti, Executive Director.

Redefining the Teaching Profession. An expert panel will meet early in 1987 to advise ASCD on the training, professional development, role definition, incentive structures, and evaluation of teachers. The panel will help ASCD develop a plan for activities in these areas through 1990. Project Facilitator: Diane G. Berreth, Director of Field Services.

CURRENT PROJECTS

ASCD Networks ASCD is currently sponsoring nine networks. They include: Arts in Education, Clearinghouse on Learning Styles and Brain Behavior, Staff Development, Northwest Vermont Outcomes-Based Mastery, ASCD Educational Futurists, Thinking Skills, Teachers of Curriculum, Equity Issues and Women in Educational Leadership, and Instructional Supervision.

Any ASCD member may join. Project Facilitator: Diane G. Berreth, Director of Field Services.

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 *Curriculum Update* in April 1985 and August 1986. For copies of the reports, available from the ASCD Fulfillment Department, send \$1 and a stamped, self-addressed envelope. A study of middle-level schools is underway. Preliminary results will be available at the New Orleans Annual Conference.

International Education Study Group. The association now has affiliates in Europe and Canada, sponsors NCSI programs overseas and yearly study tours of China and Russia, and has played an important role in founding the World Council on Curriculum and Instruction, which met last summer in Hiroshima. ASCD has also established a professional relationship with curriculum organizations in Britain and Canada, and will act on a similar plan with Australia. This group will meet once during the year to give direction to ASCD's expanding international role in education.

UPCOMING NATIONAL CURRICULUM STUDY INSTITUTES

See page 71 for NCSI schedule.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Policy Analysis. A new policy analysis panel has begun examining issues in bilingual education. Panel members include Esther Eisenhower, Virginia; Edward Fuentes, Washington, D.C.; Gonzalo Garza, Texas; Kenji Hakuta, Connecticut; Jack Levy, Virginia; Muriel Saville Troike, Illinois; and Sally Banks Zakariya, Virginia. Their report will be available early in 1987. Project Facilitator: Diane G. Berreth, Director of Field Services.

Dissertation Awards. Each year ASCD recognizes authors of outstanding dissertations in curriculum, supervision, and instruction. Eligible dissertations must have been completed during the academic year of 1 September 1985 to 31 August 1986. Submit abstracts by December 1986. For guidelines contact Susan Hartsoe, Project Facilitator.

CONSORTIUMS

Middle School Futures Planning Consortium. In October, 25 middle-level schools from around the nation launched a two-year effort to enhance the strategic-planning capability of middle school facul-

ties, assisting them to design middle school education appropriate to the future lives of 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.

High School Futures Consortium. In the spring 25 high schools will be selected to begin a two-year project to train school teams in strategic planning. Watch *Update* for application information. Project Facilitator: Gordon Cawelti, Executive Director.

RECENT PRODUCTS

Videotapes

Strategic Planning and Leadership. This new tape demystifies the planning process and shows how three school districts (Detroit, Ft. Wayne, and Placentia, California) have used strategic planning to bridge the gap between long-range planning and the everyday school management decisions. The video is accompanied by *Guide to Strategic Planning for Educators* by Shirley McCune. \$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, shows classroom scenes of exemplary practices, and highlights the consequences of teaching for thinking. Entire set of four tapes. \$695 ASCD members; \$795 nonmembers.

1987 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend the Forty-Second Annual ASCD Conference in New Orleans 21-24 March 1987. The theme is Collaboration for Productive Learning: A Global Investment. It will be considered under five related strands: Health and the Human Condition; The Changing Corporate Structure; Social Expectations—Language and Culture; Communications; and Government and Global Influences on Educational Policy.

General Sessions speakers are Robert Coles, Professor and Child Psychiatrist, Harvard University; Neil Postman, Professor of Communications Arts and Sciences, New York University; Sarah Lawrence Lightfoot, Professor, Harvard Graduate School of Education; and Terrence Deal, Professor of Educational Leadership, Peabody School of Education, Vanderbilt University.

For project, product, or conference information and registration materials, write or call ASCD, 125 North West St., Alexandria, VA 22314-2798 (703) 549-9110.

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