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. A major emphasis in ASCD's current program is teaching thinking. 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 later this year. 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. ASCD members may join a national network on teaching thinking by sending a check for $10 payable to ASCD Network on Teaching Thinking to John Barel, Montclair State College, Upper Montclair, NJ 07043. Project Facilitator: Ron Brandt, 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 Cavelti, Executive Director.

Restructuring 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 ten 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, and Social Issues. 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.

UPCOMING NATIONAL CURRICULUM STUDY INSTITUTES

See page 11 for NCSI schedule.

OTHER ACTIVITIES


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 faculties, 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: Paul George, University of Florida.

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 Cavelti, Executive Director.

RECENT PRODUCTS

Training Materials

Tactics for Thinking. A comprehensive program developed by Bob Marzano and Daisy Arredondo for training teachers of all grade levels and subject areas in the teaching of 22 thinking skills, or mental tactics. Sold separately: Trainer's Manual, $35; Teacher's Manual, $12, comprehensive videotapes, $495 for ASCD members, $545 nonmembers.

Teaching Strategies Library. A compilation of instructional techniques that teachers have found most useful in working with students. The first four strategies currently being offered are: mastery lecture, concept attainment, concept formation, and peer practice. When completed, the library will feature a total of 16 strategies. Trainer's Manual and videotapes are available to ASCD members for $795, nonmembers for $895.

Books

Making Middle Schools Work, by Jon Wiles and Joseph Bondi. Based on their belief that middle schools must be rooted in terms of human growth and development as well as their own extensive work with middle schools, Wiles and Bondi explain their Curriculum Management Plan for developing successful middle school programs. (611-86046) $7.25.

Social Issues and Education: Challenge and Responsibility, edited by Alex Molnar. Believing educators must "see through social myth... and say what we see," the authors provide perspectives on nine areas of concern, including gay and lesbian students, social attitudes in textbooks, equity, literacy, ethnic diversity, and more. (611-86048) $9.75.

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, write or call ASCD, 125 North West St., Alexandria, VA 22314 (703) 549-9110-2798.