

ASCD in Action

CURRENT PROJECTS

ASCD Networks. A 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 for Affiliate Units.

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 in full session at the 1984 Annual Conference and will meet again in March 1985 in Chicago. Between annual meetings, members are at work on the project within the framework of eight regional subcommittees. 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, which will be repeated in three-year cycles. The study of elementary curriculum trends began in 1982; a report will be released this fall. A study of middle school curriculum trends will begin this fall, and a study of high school curriculum is being designed with data collection set for 1985. Project Director: Janice Adkisson, Acting Assistant Director 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 schools are participating in a two-year High Schools Future Planning Network. The primary goal is to strengthen the strategic, long-range planning capabilities of network schools. Other areas of analysis include core curriculum, improved teaching strategies, and use of technology in schools. Schools will communicate through computer networking. Project Facilitator: Gordon Cawelti, ASCD Executive Director.

Policy Analysis. ASCD has recently published *Incentives for Excellence in America's Schools*, a report of the ASCD Policy Task Force on Merit Pay and Career Ladders. A new task force will be meeting to analyze the consequences of increased secondary academic requirements. Project Facilitator: Diane Berreth, ASCD Associate Director for Affiliate Units.

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 Project. ASCD is working to improve the quality of student thinking in four ways: (1) Arthur Costa is editing a resource book to be published early this summer; (2) Carolyn Hughes chairs a committee to work with other professional organizations; (3) Jim Belanca is helping plan a four-part video-based inservice program to be available fall 1985; and (4) John Barell is organizing a national network on teaching thinking.

To join the network, send a check for \$10 made out to ASCD to: John Barell, Montclair State College, Upper Montclair, NJ 07043. Project Facilitator: Ron Brandt, ASCD Executive Editor.

RECENT PRODUCTS

Books

Current Thought on Curriculum. 1985 ASCD yearbook, edited by Alex Molnar. Leading scholars discuss technology, textbooks, psychology, qualitative evaluation, and the gulf between theory and practice. (610-85358) \$12.00.

An Action Guide to School Improvement. Susan Loucks-Horsley and Leslie F. Hergert. Authors provide a seven-step model and practical advice to anyone undertaking an improvement effort. (611-85360) \$5.00.

Teachers, Their World, and Their Work. Ann Lieberman and Lynne Miller offer a pragmatic view of the lives of elementary and secondary teachers and discuss the implications of everyday realities for school improvement. (611-84334) \$9.50.

Videotapes

School Improvement Through Staff Development. Describes a building-level process for preparing staff to make long-lasting changes. Goes on-site in four divergent communities to show how staff can best be involved in planning and trained to implement changes and incorporate them into the daily operations of the school. \$225 ASCD members, \$260 nonmembers.

The Principal As Instructional Leader. Recognizes the principal's influence on school success through his or her impact

on staff. Research and interviews with teachers affected by instructional leaders promote principal and staff understanding and encourage behavioral change. \$225 ASCD members, \$260 nonmembers.

Quality Circles: Problem-Solving Tool for Educators. Shows how quality circles can solve problems through a participatory-management approach. Identifies four steps—problem selection, problem analysis, solution selection, and management presentation—used in the process and includes comments from superintendents, principals, teachers, and national quality circles trainers on why they are effective. \$225 ASCD members, \$260 nonmembers.

UPCOMING NATIONAL CURRICULUM STUDY INSTITUTES

Instructional Improvement. Indianapolis, June 6-7.

Teacher Evaluation. Detroit, June 10-11.

Quality Circles in Education. Williamsburg, June 20-21.

Current Issues in Testing and Assessment. Princeton, June 24-25.

The following institutes will be held in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on June 26, 27, and 28:

- **Teacher Expectations and Student Achievement**
- **Teacher Evaluation** (June 26 & 27 only)
- **Middle Schools: Matching Student Needs with Programs**
- **Planning for Curriculum Improvement in Schools**
- **Career Ladders, Differentiated Staffing, and Merit Pay** (June 27 & 28 only)
- **Teaching Thinking Skills**
- **Instructional Supervision**
- **Increasing Teaching Effectiveness**

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 6-10

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