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 ASCDs. 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 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. *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. Teaching thinking is a major program emphasis in ASCD's new five-year plan. A *Resource Book* and a set of videotapes are being completed this fall. ASCD members may join a national network on teaching thinking by sending a check for $10.00 to John Barell, Montclair State College, Upper Montclair, NJ 07043. A number of education organizations convened by ASCD are collaborating on several other projects, including (1) defining an array of thinking skills useful to curriculum developers, (2) working with publishers to improve instructional materials and tests, (3) defining needed research, (4) developing standards for teacher education, and (5) informing educators and the general public. Project facilitator: Ron Brandt, ASCD Executive Editor.

RECENT PRODUCTS

Books

Developing Minds: A Resource Book for Teaching Thinking, edited by Arthur L. Costa. Fifty-six contributing authors discuss rationale, philosophy, programs, and resources for instituting thinking skills programs in schools. (611-85362) $19.95.

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; *not* a comprehensive member book) $5.00.

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

Supervision for School-Based Instructional Improvement, Boston, November 14–15.

New Research on Adult Learning: Implications for Staff Development, San Francisco, November 18–19.

Project Impact: Training Teachers to Teach Thinking, San Antonio, December 4–6.

New Directions for Elementary Schools, Palm Beach, December 9–10.

Middle Schools, Charleston, January 9–10.

Supervisory Skills: Promoting Teacher Thought/Commitment/Choice, Phoenix, January 16–18.

Staff Development for School Improvement, Orlando, January 23–24.

Learning and Teaching Styles: Principles and Practice, Savannah, January 30-31.

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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