

ASCD in Action

ASCD Continues Work on Assessment, Holds Restructuring Forums

One of ASCD's current focus areas, declared in our strategic plan for 1990-1995, is Assessment. We believe that norm-referenced, multiple-choice tests should not be the primary means of

these pioneering districts is to disseminate information about assessment to other ASCD members through publications, conferences, and other means. For example, a miniconference on the subject was conducted in November 1991, and another is scheduled for November 11-13, 1992, in Baltimore. For information, call ASCD's Professional Development Department, (703) 549-9110.

We have published a book, a video, and two theme issues of *Educational Leadership* (including this one) on assessment. Several more, including a "how to" book on performance assessment (to be sent to comprehensive members in September) and two new staff development videos, are in production.



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evaluating students, schools, and school programs, and we support the use of performance testing and portfolios instead.

This past year ASCD monitored the hearings of the National Council on Education Standards and Testing and submitted a set of recommendations, some of which were reflected in the Council's report. We also participated in the National Forum on Assessment, a group of representatives from education and advocacy organizations that developed criteria for evaluating assessment programs.

To assist development of improved assessment systems, ASCD has formed a consortium of 13 school districts known to be leaders in use of portfolios and other performance-based measures. The group met in San Diego in the fall and is meeting again this month in Littleton, Colorado, to exchange information among themselves. Our purpose in working with

Voices from the Field on Restructuring

Which elements of restructuring are essential for success? How can we describe these elements so that they are understood by diverse audiences? These were the kinds of questions educators discussed at two ASCD Restructuring Forums held this year.

Open to the membership, the first took place February 6 in Littleton, Colorado. Bill Spady spoke on "Using Restructuring to Transform the Paradigm of Education in America." The second forum was held February 27 in Hartford, Connecticut. Ted Sizer of the Coalition of Essential Schools was the keynote.

Participants discussed their experiences and developed consensus statements on the ideal outcomes of restructuring. Their recommendations will be published in an ASCD book to be titled *Voices from the Field on Restructuring*.

Affiliate Publications Recognized

ASCD International each year recognizes the fine publications produced by its affiliates. This year six publications were honored at the annual Affiliate Recognition Luncheon April 3 in New Orleans.

Winning in the category of Best Affiliate Journal for 1991-92 were Connecticut ASCD's *Curriculum and Staff Development* and Washington ASCD's *Curriculum in Context*.

Connecticut's journal, edited by Kenneth Lester, was honored for its theme issue on International/Global Education. Washington's journal, edited by Richard Wolfe, was honored for its "excellent articles written by a variety of authors who represent the full spectrum of its membership."

New Jersey ASCD's *Focus* and Georgia's ASCD's *Reporter* won awards in the category of Best Newsletter. *Focus*, edited by Brenda Benson-Burrell, was cited for "providing members with relevant information in a visually appealing format." The *Reporter*, edited by Frances Karanovich, was named the most improved newsletter.

The *Journal of Maine Education*, edited by Leon Levesque, received an award for an outstanding journal article. "Making Tracks in a High School English Class" by Kate Pennington and Judith Stafford was praised as a human interest article, about real-life experiences.

The *Florida ASCD Journal*, edited by Carmen Dumas, was honored for its inviting graphics.

The six ASCD Affiliates received certificates for their achievements.



▼ Take Action

Join the Thinking Assessment Network.

For more information, contact facilitator:

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▼ Take Note

A Different Kind of Classroom: Teaching with Dimensions of Learning by Robert J. Marzano will be mailed to all comprehensive members in May. This book describes Dimensions of Learning, a framework for instructional planning that is based on the best of what researchers have found out about learning over the past 30 years. Marzano explains the research underlying the framework and discusses exactly how teachers can use Dimensions to revitalize their classroom.

Stock number: 611-92107

ISBN: 0-87120-192-5, price: \$15.95



▼ For Your Calendar

Upcoming Annual Conferences

1993, Washington, D.C.,
March 27-30
(ASCD's 50th Anniversary)
1994, Chicago, March 19-22

Upcoming Mini-Conferences

July 8-10, 1992, *Atlantic City Summer Series*, Atlantic City, New Jersey.
July 15-17, 1992, *Minneapolis Summer Series*, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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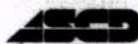
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