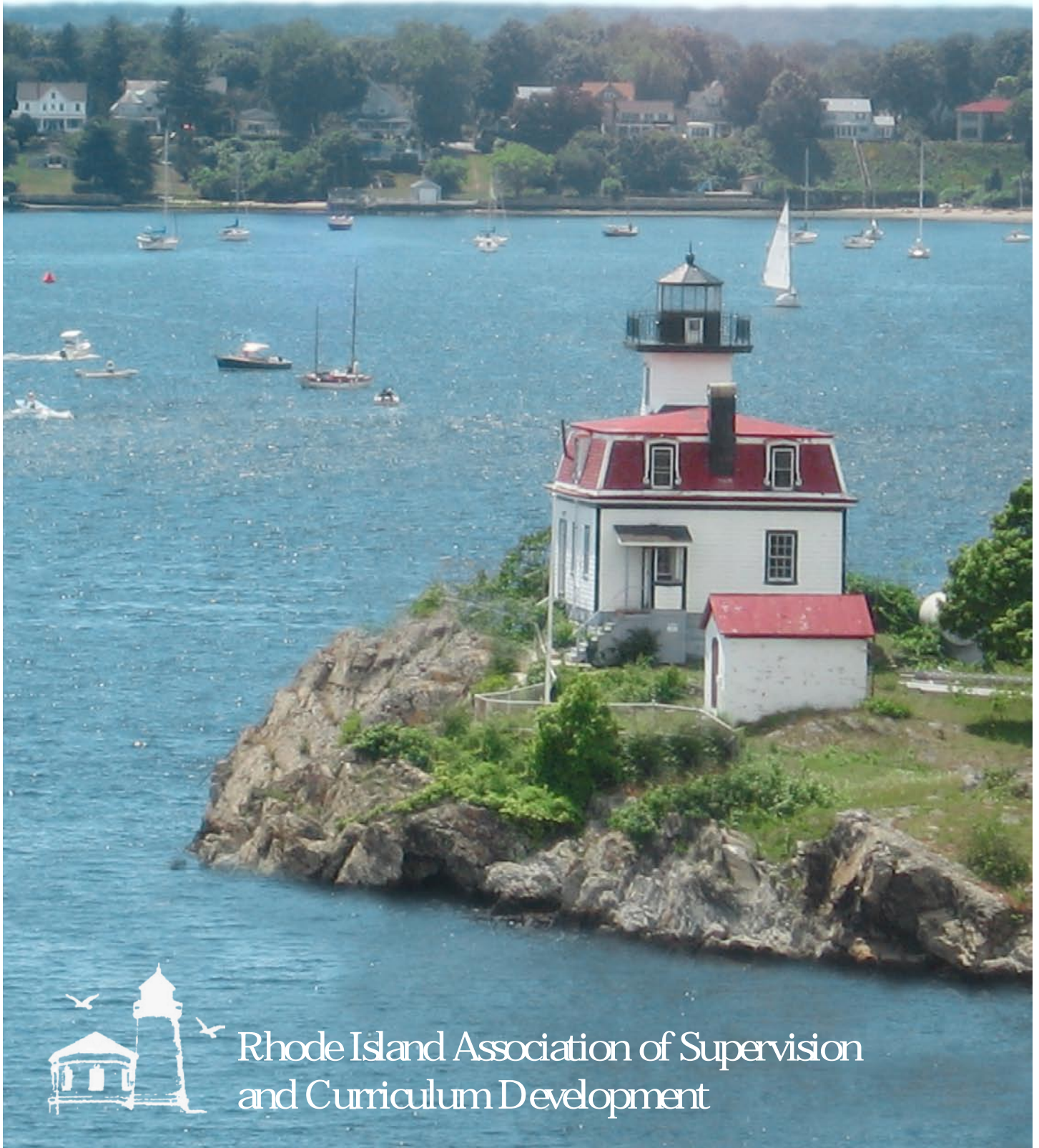


Beacon of Light

Lighting the Way to Best Practices



Rhode Island Association of Supervision
and Curriculum Development

PREFACE

Welcome to the RIASCD Affiliate Excellence Application. This year we have chosen to submit our application in three formats: an Executive Summary (five copies), a portfolio of evidence linked to this summary (one bound copy), and an extensive, interactive, electronic portfolio. The electronic portfolio may be accessed through a link on our webpage, <http://www.riascd.org>. This format has allowed us to archive our past 20 years of excellence, and to make our success web-accessible for members and friends of RIASCD. We hope that each of these formats will provide you with a different perspective on the accomplishments and growth of the RIASCD Affiliate. A section of guidance on how to navigate these documents and evidence is found at the end of the Preface.

Clickable Moments

In order to review the electronic copy of the application, you will want to visit our website at <http://www.riascd.org>. On the website, you will see a link for Our Portfolio under Site Features. Instructions for opening the complete binder are available on the website. Adobe Acrobat Reader 6.0 or higher is required.

Once you have opened the electronic portfolio (RIASCD Application.pdf) in Adobe Acrobat, you may want to note several of the text features included, to ease your navigation of the document. When a section of text is underlined in blue, (see Figure 1) this will indicate a clickable hyperlink to relevant artifacts in another section of the portfolio or it will open a web site. Additionally, several

Highlighted Activities

1. RIASCD has always produced quarterly newsletters for all members including notices of conferences and meetings. In 1997, ACOT awarded RIASCD

Figure I Click on the underlined text to move to the artifact.



Figure II - In the electronic portfolio, this is a video clip as noted in parentheses

photographs include embedded video clips or clickable hyperlinks (where noted in captions, see figure II) to support your understanding of our organization.



Exploring Rhode Island

State History

Rhode Island's name comes from navigator Giovanni de Verrazzano, who in the 1520s compared its landscape to the Isle of Rhodes. Roger Williams founded Rhode Island in 1636 as a haven for political and religious freedom. Rhode Island was the first of the thirteen original colonies to declare independence from England and the last to ratify the Constitution, demanding the inclusion of the Bill of Rights. At the start of the Revolutionary War, Rhode Islanders were among the first colonists to take action against British rule by attacking the HMS Gaspee. Rhode Island enacted the first law against slavery in North America on May 18, 1652. Rhode Island is home to approximately 20 percent of the nation's registered landmarks, most of which are located in Providence and Newport. The historic East side of Providence features the most impressive



State Capitol in Providence

concentration of original Colonial homes in America. Newport, the City-by-the-Sea, is renowned for its many palatial mansions, six of which are owned by the Preservation Society of Newport County. These fabled mansions, the "summer cottages" of America's Gilded Age, portray the opulence of a bygone era.

Why the Ocean State?

With more than 400 miles of coastline, more than 100 beaches and the resources of Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island is perfect for any type of water sport, from boating and fishing to windsurfing and waterskiing. More than 60 percent of Rhode Island is woodlands. Thirty-five campgrounds, miles of hiking and horseback riding trails and 2,300 acres of parks are all located in the nation's smallest state.

Economy

Tourism is Rhode Island's second largest industry. Healthcare is first and jewelry manufacturing is third. Growing industries in the state include electronics, plastics, metal products, instruments, chemicals and boat building.

Education

Rhode Island has 12 institutes of higher learning including Brown University, Salve Regina University, Rhode Island School of Design, Johnson and Wales University, University of Rhode Island and the U.S. Naval War College.



Fishing in the Blackstone Valley

Offshore Relaxation

Block Island, a ten-square mile gem seaside resort located just twelve miles off the Rhode Island coast, features rolling green hills and dramatic bluffs overlooking the Atlantic. Local cuisine features swordfish, record-sized striped bass, bluefish and flounder.

Divine Vineyards

Several vineyards are within a fifteen-minute drive. Greenvale Vineyards, in Portsmouth, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, and Sakonnet Vineyards in Little Compton, combine spectacular wine with fabulous views of the Sakonnet



River. Newport Vineyards in the Easy Bay boasts a wide variety of grapes producing reds, whites, blush and dessert wines.

Natural Retreats

Take a romantic ride through the Woonasquatucket and Providence Rivers of the Blackstone Valley on an authentic Venetian gondola. Rural towns with forests and stone walls accent the area's history of farming. Families can hike around the Scituate Reservoir or watch maple sugar-making. Blithewold Mansion, Gardens and Arboretum features the most beautiful gardens in the eastern United States. Adventure enthusiasts enjoy the fourteen-mile East Bay Bike Path that runs through many communities with unparalleled views of Narragansett Bay.

Modern Renaissance

One hundred bonfires illuminate the downtown waters of the Providence River during the bi-weekly Waterfire event in the warmer months. Music, reflecting a variety of cultures and rhythms, reverberates off the Venetian style bridges and passing gondolas. Federal Hill, one of Providence's oldest ethnic neighborhoods, is packed with various restaurants of multi-national flair. The majestic State Capitol, built of white Georgian marble, overlooks beautiful city parks hosting a variety of festivals. The country's second oldest art club, the Providence Art Club (founded in 1880) features a clubhouse and galleries in two Colonial buildings and monthly changing exhibits, and many additional exhibits can be visited at area museums such as the Rhode Island School of Design.

Quick Facts

The United States Navy began in Newport.

The first Baptist church in America was founded in Providence in 1638 by Roger Williams

Touro Synagogue in Newport, built in 1763, is the oldest Jewish house of worship in America

Providence is home to America's oldest indoor shopping mall, the Arcade, built in 1828

Watch Hill Resort in Westerly operates the nation's oldest carousel, established in 1850.

The concept of the American diner originated in Providence in 1872.

The town of Bristol hosted its 222nd Fourth of July parade, becoming the oldest Fourth of July parade in the country.



An evening Waterfire event in downtown Providence (video clip of the Journey over Rhode Island)



History of RIASCD

1986-1987

RIASCD is reestablished

Executive Director: Ralph Jaspardo
President: Phil Streier
President-elect: William White

1988-89

Executive Director: Ralph Jaspardo
President: William White
President-elect: Bernadine DiOrio

1989-1990

Executive Director: Ralph Jaspardo
President: Bernadine DiOrio
President-elect: Donna Murphy

1990-1991

Executive Director: Ralph Jaspardo
President: Donna Murphy
President-elect: F. William Davis

1991-1992

Executive Director: Ralph Jaspardo
President: F. William Davis
President-elect: Mary Chirico

1992-1993

Executive Director: Ralph Jaspardo
President: Mary Chirico
President-elect: John Harrington

1993-1994

Executive Director: Vin Hawkins
President: John Harrington
President-elect: Mary Lou Mancini

1994-1995

Executive Director: Vin Hawkins
President: Mary Lou Mancini
President-elect: Tom Larrabee

1995-1996

Executive Director: Vin Hawkins
President: Mary Lou Mancini
President-elect: Tom Larrabee

1996-1997

Executive Director: Vin Hawkins
President: Tom Larrabee
President-elect: William Fasano

Brief Timeline

The Rhode Island ASCD story began in 1986-1987, when a group of educators involved in professional development for school leaders began a discussion about the materials being used in their training and their connection to ASCD. The conversation focused on the possibility of re-affiliating with ASCD since the Rhode Island affiliate had been inactive. Under a grant provided by ASCD, a core group met with Diane Berreth to outline the process for re-affiliation and develop a strategic plan. A Board of Directors was established and recruitment of membership began in 1987 when Ralph Jaspardo became the first Executive Director. In that year, the organization's first conference featured Fenwick English. Professional development during those early years was focused upon instruction and literacy and was delivered via two conferences a year. High quality programming produced an increase in membership and RIASCD was on its way to becoming the "sought after" organization for professional development in Rhode Island. It was also during that period of time that the lighthouse was selected as the official logo for the organization, fitting in with the state's proximity to the ocean as well as the obvious metaphor for enlightenment.

A Changing Rhode Island

As the 1990's approached, superintendents and assistant superintendents continued to make

up the leadership of RIASCD. By the mid-90's, however, the demographics of the governance of the organization began to change as principals and teachers were elected to the Board. Thomas Larrabee became the first principal to be elected president in 1995. Programmatic activities continued to dominate the landscape of RIASCD with a goal of enhancing professional development in the area of instructional pedagogy aimed at practitioners. In 1996, RIASCD collaborated for the first time with the other New England affiliates to organize the Northeast Regional ASCD Affiliate Conference held in Boston. The group will celebrate its eleventh anniversary this year. RIASCD's approach to programs and products in the mid to late '90's was heralded by Summer Institutes and workshops that sustained themes over time and focused on Understanding by Design and the brain research. Also during the '90's, RIASCD revamped its newsletter to its



2006 Board Retreat at the Mt. Hope Farm

membership and the educational community. This newsletter was recognized by ASCD worldwide with the “The Little Engine That Could Award.” The approach of the new millennium saw RIASCD move in the direction of furthering its influence through collaborations and co-sponsorships of activities and institutes with professional organizations such as the Rhode Island Department of Education, the Rhode Island Middle Level Educators, the Rhode Island Social Studies Association, the Rhode Island School Superintendents’ Association, the Rhode Island Association of School Principals and the Rhode Island institutions of higher education. By mid 2000, the RIASCD submitted and received an influence grant from ASCD to study the closing of the achievement gap in Rhode Island. This study brought major educational and governmental stakeholders together to hear the preliminary findings. The Rhode Island Department of Education is partnering with RIASCD this year to replicate the study for English Language Learners. It was also during the mid 2000’s that RIASCD was recognized by ASCD with a “Special Projects Grant” to publish its first journal entitled The Leading Edge, which was published and distributed in 2005. An Affiliate Excellence Award for Programming and Influence, and the 2006 Best Practices Award for Programs, Products, and Services for the “Book Gala” have also been presented to RIASCD. In the first decade of 2000, a special conference for pre-service teachers was designed



2005 Board Retreat at Betty Brito’s home

and delivered as a way of giving back to the educational community from RIASCD. Rhode Island ASCD leaders have increased involvement with ASCD worldwide. Affiliate leaders have served or are serving on ASCD committees such as the Constituent Relations Committee under the former ASCD governance structure; membership on and co-chair of the Position Development Team; membership on the Position Action Team; the Leadership Council Panel; the Legislative Agenda Committee; and appointment to the High School Reform Task Force. Now as ASCD has revised its mission, so too is RIASCD moving from an affiliate that concentrates on specific programs and products to an intentional look at broader services for its membership which focus on the Whole Child. For example, at our initial Board meeting and first general membership meeting, the new “Whole Child” initiative was introduced and the video was shown to highlight the importance of that lens on our programs and advocacy efforts. The organization has sought to actively become a stronger voice

1997-1998

Executive Director: Vin Hawkins
 President: William Fasano
 President-elect: Ken DiPietro

1998-1999

Executive Director: Andrew Carrano
 President: William Fasano
 President-elect: Ken DiPietro

1999-2000

Executive Director: Andrew Carrano
 President: Ken DiPietro
 President-elect: Betty Brito

2000-2001

Executive Director: Andrew Carrano
 President: Ken DiPietro
 President-elect: Betty Brito

2001-2002

Executive Director: Betty Brito
 President: Ken DiPietro
 President-elect: Andrew Carrano

2002-2003

Executive Director: Betty Brito
 President: Andrew Carrano
 President-elect: Lucille Andolfo

2003-2004

Executive Director: Betty Brito
 President: Andrew Carrano
 President-elect: Lucille Andolfo

2004-2005

Executive Director: Betty Brito
 President: Lucille Andolfo
 President-elect: Betty Calise

2005-2006

Executive Director: Betty Brito
 President: Lucille Andolfo
 President-elect: Betty Calise

2006-2008

Executive Director: Betty Brito
 President: Betty Calise
 President-elect: Judith Paolucci



History of RIASCD continued

TESTIMONIALS

Ralph Jaspardo

Professor, Johnson and Wales University

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you, the officers, and members of the Board of Directors of RIASCD for the publication of your new journal, *The Leading Edge*. Having been one of the founding members of RIASCD in 1987, along with people like Phil Streifer, Charlie Mojowski, Bernie DiOrto, and Joe Krupowicz, I applaud you on how far the organization has come since its inception. RIASCD has always been dedicated to providing Rhode Island educators with quality programs. *The new journal continues that excellent tradition. I have enjoyed reading the articles in this issue and believe that this journal will provide Rhode Island educators with the opportunity to expand their knowledge base on current and timely issues. I wish you, the officers, and the Board of Directors continued success as you lead RI's most prestigious professional educational association.*

Ed Costa

Retired Deputy Commissioner at RI Department of Education

There was a tremendous need 20 years ago to build capacity in the state of Rhode Island. The RI Department of Education was small, under-funded, and did not have curriculum consultants or experts on staff who could help move the standards movement ahead and out into the schools. We were just beginning to discuss curriculum frameworks and recognized the need for resources from ASCD. The group thought that an affiliate organization would be the vehicle to help pull this together, and ASCD did that for us. We saw this as a way for collaboration and a way to network with the larger ASCD community.

for learning and teaching in Rhode Island through its partnerships and collaborations. Once again this past summer, RIASCD was asked to partner with the Rhode Island Department of Education and the RI Social Studies Association to sponsor a Summer Civics Institute.

Last spring, RIASCD celebrated its 20th anniversary with a special reception at Johnson and Wales University. In conjunction with this event, attendees were asked to contribute a children's book. The donated books (over a thousand) were then presented to the Urban League of RI for family literacy projects. This endeavor was a huge success and the books were warmly received by the Director of that organization. A special feature of

the gala was a presentation by renowned storyteller Len Cabral on the importance of reading. RIASCD received congratulatory citations from Dr. Carter as well as the RI Board of Regents and the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, in recognition of the 20 years of accomplishments of the Affiliate.

As a volunteer organization, RIASCD has moved to a position of prominence and respect in Rhode Island. We have a diverse leadership team with new members (Christine Bond, Mark Davis, Bernie DiLullo, AnnMarie Dubuque, Linda Lavoie, Judy Paolucci, Michael Barnes, and Roy Seitsinger) who will sustain our legacy.

MISSION

Rhode Island ASCD's mission is to improve the quality of learning, teaching and leading for the success of all learners. We are a diverse community of educators acting as a dynamic force for educational excellence.

VISION

Rhode Island ASCD is the leading source for professional learning in Rhode Island. Its exemplary programs, services, and partnerships influence policies and practices for the benefit of the Rhode Island educational community and the subsequent success of students.



Patrick Guida, Vice-Chairman of the RI Board of Regents (video clip)

President's Notes Supporting our Schools

As a professional learning community, our organization has been able to provide numerous professional development opportunities to districts in the state of Rhode Island. It has been our privilege and pleasure to embrace the ASCD mission of sharing best practices to achieve the success of each learner.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of my presidency has been the opportunity to work with a group of extraordinary individuals – RIASCD Executive Board, Board members, and volunteers who serve on various committees – to advance best practice in learning and teaching through our outstanding program offerings.

As an Affiliate, we are committed and dedicated to continually serve and advance “what’s best for kids” in local school districts throughout the state.



Dr. Betty Calise
RIASCD President
Assistant Superintendent
Barrington Public Schools

Charlie Mojowski Educational Consultant

In the mid-1980s, Rhode Island established the Rhode Island Educational Leadership Academy and began to provide much-expanded professional development to school leaders, particularly school principals and their school improvement teams. Many of the principals who joined in this work were interested in developing their curriculum leadership skills, and the Academy employed lots of resources from ASCD. A colleague had already investigated the requirements for re-aliation and informed the group that a fee of \$600 was required. Since we had no way of raising the fee, I volunteered to loan the money to the group. Although I do not recall being reimbursed, I must have been, and, in April 1990 was honored by RIASCD for my contributions to the organization. I wonder now if I was being honored for my loan of \$600; I suspect it was for more than that, because I remember how much work I and several other members of that group put into building the organization in Rhode Island. The Leadership Academy dissolved in 1994, but RIASCD continued its exceptional work in advancing leadership in curriculum and instruction. It’s always special to be part of a new beginning, and it is especially rewarding to see how much RIASCD has grown and prospered.



Communication

Chairs



Jayne Berghom
Reading Specialist
Warwick Public Schools



Mark Davis
Reading Specialist
Barrington Public Schools

Introduction

The significance of RIASCD's submission for Affiliate Excellence is the comprehensive and cohesive approach to renewal and improvement that RIASCD has practiced. RIASCD found itself fifteen years ago in financial difficulty with limited membership. Governance/Board meetings were held frequently to plan four newsletters and one annual conference. As RIASCD re-invented itself, it looked to the connections between programming and influence, influence and communication, communication and membership, membership and governance. RIASCD was the first affiliate to apply for and receive a dual ASCD excellence award for programming and influence. As noted above, RIASCD deserves ASCD's recognition for affiliate excellence because RIASCD demonstrates the priority of ASCD of moving from success to significance. RIASCD continues to re-assess itself. Its recent effort to research public school efforts at closing the gap achieved State recognition and a letter from Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education Peter McWalters celebrating the study and asking for RIASCD to replicate the study for ELL students. The Governor sent his education policy analyst to the Summit we hosted to present our findings, and

commented on the effectiveness of the study. RIASCD has been asked to sit on a number of State boards. As a volunteer organization, RIASCD has moved to a position of prominence and respect in Rhode Island. RIASCD has demonstrated significant progress in Communications over the past ten years as demonstrated below.



Bill Fasano presenting at the 2005 LC Meeting

Highlighted Activities

1. RIASCD has always produced quarterly newsletters for all members including notices of conferences and meetings. In 1997, ASCD awarded RIASCD the Little Engine That Could award for its newsletter.
2. RIASCD has for some time provided the public with access to a RIASCD website. Two years ago, RIASCD linked the website to ASCD. This past year, we have created an interactive website, <http://www.riascd.org>,

the site provides another form of communication to inform members and those interested in the RIASCD calendar of events and RIASCD priorities. Our webpage is an ASCD resource.

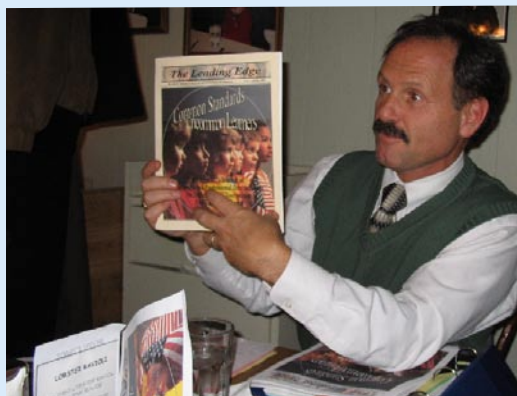
3. In addition to the website, RIASCD maintains a listserv for governance and for membership allowing us to archive our discussions. Each board member has a personal RIASCD e-mail address that provides special access to board-specific webpages. The list provides off-hour and between meeting opportunities for governance members to discuss and plan for RIASCD efforts. the ASCD Regional Director, Gail Clark Dickson, is a member of this listserv and regularly receives these communications and participates in the dialogue. The RIASCD Communication Committee created a flowchart to summarize the pathways of communication necessary for successful governance. The largest listserv in Rhode Island (RITTI) is maintained by a member of the RIASCD executive board. This strategic link to the RITTI listserv offers RIASCD an effective communication tool statewide.

4. In support of governance, RIASCD issues a communication to the district leadership of all RIASCD Board members identifying the importance of their professional service and asking the district to support the member's

participation and service to RIASCD. The letters have served to provide acknowledgement and support for governing board participation at events and meetings.

5. RIASCD also maintains a practice of issuing certificates of appreciation and achievement. In a study, completed five years ago entitled: Facing the Challenge - A Study of High Performing, High Poverty Schools, RIASCD wrote a letter of achievement to schools demonstrating responsiveness to poverty. Similarly, RIASCD acknowledged the 100 schools in Rhode Island that closed the gap in state testing achievement between special needs students and all students by 50% or less than 15 index proficiency points over four years of testing.

6. Another effective communication strategy is the combining of membership and member needs assessments through, mailings,



Ken DiPietro sharing ideas for our journal, *The Leading Edge* in Spring 2005

publications, conference events and website. RIASCD continues to modify its literature and outreach efforts to include feedback systems from membership on priorities and interest in governance. RIASCD uses a triangulation approach to communication by surveying the governing board, surveying membership and engaging participants at RIASCD sponsored events to learn best what RI educators want from a professional organization.

Local Impact on the State

7. RIASCD has always maintained a regular schedule of membership meetings annually. This provided face-to-face dialogue for members. Approximately ten years ago, RIASCD linked free workshops to membership meetings up to four times per year. This increased attendance and provided a forum for hosting workshops with the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) on issues related to their agenda (state standards, testing, teacher certification, high school reform, etc.). The result was a link between communication, membership, programming and influence.

8. In 2001/2002, RIASCD developed a brochure of all professional organizations in Rhode Island and distributed the brochure to all organizations and aspiring teachers at pre-service conferences. This brochure was updated this past summer. The communication emphasized RIASCD for its educational service and created improved communication with partner organizations.

9. Recently, in an influence study by RIASCD regarding statewide efforts to close the gap between special needs students and all students on State testing, RIASCD provided research data and information on its summit to ALL state legislators, all school committee members, all superintendents and all special education directors. The use of email and lists engaged the widest audience of participation in RIASCD's history. These lists are now maintained for influence efforts.

10. In 2004, RIASCD published its first journal, *The Leading Edge - Common Standards/Uncommon Learners*. The journal was provided to over 1,000 Rhode Island educators. Supported in part by a grant from ASCD, the journal was a catalyst for improving membership and influence. As part of the initiative, RIASCD partnered with the Rhode Island Department of Education and co-hosted a parenting workshop for special needs parents where the journal was also distributed. The journal served as another link between membership and influence.

11. One of the most effective



Ed Mara and Ron Defronzo at the Eric Jensen workshop

communication efforts for RIASCD was developed by ASCD as the Day on the Hill. RIASCD representatives to Leadership Council and the Executive Director participated in these dialogues with legislators for the past four years. Dialogue with the legislators continues beyond the Day on the Hill and the affiliate has become a resource for them on educational issues. The new effort of ASCD to move from successful to significant inspired RIASCD to replicate the effort in Rhode Island. These same strategies are utilized to communicate to RI political leaders as identified above in the listserv efforts and later in the influential study of closing the gap.

12. One of the most successful and powerful communication efforts by RIASCD has been the recent study of closing the gap efforts by RI public schools. The influential study, supported by ASCD, sought to validate the importance of using multiple measures and longitudinal analysis to measure school success. The importance of communication in this effort was that RIASCD linked all special education leaders in the study, bringing them together and sharing the results of the study. The data and findings have been disseminated in all 35 districts. In addition, RIASCD communicated with all Superintendents who then

asked RIASCD to host a Summit for their organization RISSA and the School Committee organization RIASC. This Summit was held on June 1, 2006; also invited were legislators, education and policy analysts and RIDE.

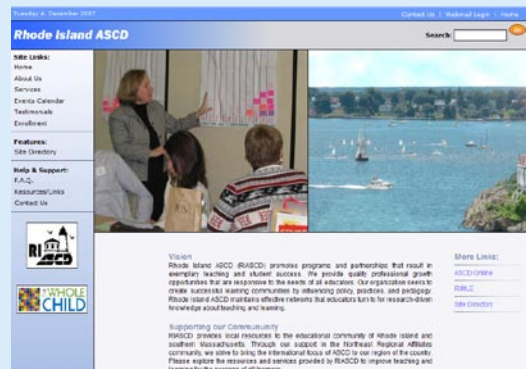
13. RIASCD actively engages other professional organizations through communication that has led to co-sponsoring programs. Through active and maintained communications, RIASCD has co-sponsored programs of mutual interest with RIDE (standards, testing, mentoring, pre-service, certification, Special Education parenting, civics education, etc.), RISSA and RIASC (closing the gap), RIMLE (middle school practices, Pam Robbins and Gayle Gregory on professional learning communities), RIASSP (professional learning communities, leadership), Center for School Leadership (development of leadership modules) and others. Effective communication practices have linked RIASCD to influential efforts.

Contributions to ASCD Community at Large

14. Eleven years ago, RIASCD joined northeast affiliates to host the Northeast Regional Affiliate Conference in Boston the first weekend in December. While this is a programming effort, the combined effort of affiliates sparked listservs and meetings for planning the conference. Regional ASCD meetings were re-designed to allow for dialogue among the affiliates. This new cross-affiliate communication produced networking for better informed decision making in programming, planning, finance and influence. Improved communication with

our membership through a variety of formats has resulted in increased attendance at this annual conference.

15. RIASCD is proud of its role in supporting ASCD worldwide. RIASCD has been very active in providing affiliate members to serve on constituent relations, nominations, constitution review, leadership council sub-committees, ASCD special study committees, regional planning meetings, affiliate leadership workshops and annual conference presenters. These strategic links provide an effective communication vehicle for understanding and supporting the mission of ASCD. In addition, RIASCD Board members communicate with ASCD partners through membership on various listservs maintained by ASCD (Executive Director listserv, Presidents listserv, LC listservs, NE Affiliate listservs, etc.).



Screenshot of the Rhode Island ASCD website at <http://www.riascd.org>

Appendix A - Artifacts

Communications

1. Fall 2007, Spring 2006, and Winter 2005 newsletters.
2. Visit <http://www.riascd.org>
3. A correspondence from the RIASCD listserv and RIASCD Communication Information Flow Chart 2006.
4. District leadership letter regarding participation in the RIASCD.
5. Letter of Achievement to schools that closed the gap on state assessments.
6. Conference evaluation worksheet.
7. Scheduled membership meetings flyers.
8. RIASCD brochure of all professional organizations in Rhode Island.
9. Influence study by RIASCD regarding statewide efforts to close the gap between special needs students and all students on state testing
10. Letter for a complimentary copy of *The Leading Edge - Common Standards/Uncommon Learners* issue and *Facing the Challenge* article.
11. Pictures in the narrative (see captions).
12. Review item number 9.
13. Co-sponsoring programs flyers.
14. Northeast Regional Conference Planning Committee minutes.
15. Distribution of materials provided by the ASCD, sale of books published by the ASCD, and connections to the ASCD website.



Membership and Governance

Chairs



Lucille Andolfo
Curriculum Coordinator
Jewish Community Day School



Christine Bond
Associate Professor
Salve Regina University

Introduction

Membership

Teachers and building level leaders are more significantly represented in the ranks of membership in RIASCD than ever before. Teachers, reading specialists, department chairs, and principals serve on the Board and as officers of the organization, along with consultants, superintendents, assistant superintendents and Department of Education Representatives. This broad base provides for input from many perspectives. In addition, for the past three years, student members have been added to the ranks via the Pre-Service Teacher conference. We have seen the number of student members grow over these three years from 42 in 2005 to 105 in 2007. This is driving the research for the establishment of a student chapter, which is being undertaken this year. We have also grown our membership through offering membership along with conference registration. For example, at the Virginia Rojas conference last March, out of 88 attendees, 83 became new members of RIASCD. Another example of our growth in membership derives from the number of attendees at our annual book gala. In 2006, 35 people attended, while in 2007, 74 people attended and 18 of these purchased new memberships. Member services have also taken on a different look. Although Rhode Island still strives to provide educators with professional



Betty Calise and Ed Mera at the 2004 Board Retreat

development that is timely and appropriate, we are no longer focused on one day events. Our thrust is to provide professional learning experiences that are applicable to excellence in teaching and learning and are sustained over time. To this end, we have been working with professional development themes that incorporate book study; university sponsored coursework; multiple opportunities for presentation, discussion, classroom practice and reflection; online professional development coursework as well as full-day conferences and workshops. Our method of delivery, more often than not, is through partnerships with other professional development organizations and the Rhode Island Department of Education. This has allowed us to reach a wider audience, and to demonstrate to other organizations with fewer resources and less experience the power of effectively implemented professional development. Our goals for the membership initiative will be to develop means

to more efficiently and effectively assess member needs in a timely manner, and to continue to grow our membership base by demonstrating the significance of Rhode Island ASCD.

Governance

The Rhode Island ASCD Affiliate has been exemplary in developing its Strategic Plan as a working document that highlights the vision of the organization. The Board of RIASCD has developed a Board Manual, revised the Constitution and adopted a Code of Ethics. In addition, Board members participate in a self evaluation annually. Action planning by committee is its vehicle for success. The organization reviews and audits the budget annually at its retreat in August. The Rhode Island ASCD Affiliate maintains a successful professional development program for all of its members. Last year RIASCD sponsored a Summit “Closing the Gap in Special Needs Student Performance”. This event involved state leaders from elementary, middle, high school and the colleges/ universities. Also in the summer of



Post-retreat laughs at the Brito house dinner

2006, a joint-sponsored event highlighting Professional Learning Communities was hosted by RIASCD and RIASP (Rhode Island Principals Association). This past summer, RIASCD partnered with the RI Department of Education and the RI Social Studies Teachers Association to present a Civics Institute. Leaders from Rhode Island attend the worldwide ASCD conference and Board members have regularly attended the LEAP Conference. Rhode Island ASCD has become a resource and leader in addressing the needs of the state with reform initiatives. Important initiatives for education leaders of RIASCD are to inform members of key decisions and discussions at both the Rhode Island Dept. of Education and the State and federal Legislatures that affect the role of the membership.

Highlighted Activities

1. Our database includes not only general contact information, but also the e-mail address, date of membership application and renewal,

and what educational role the member plays in RI.

2. In an effort to more effectively market the affiliate, RI developed a membership brochure that highlights its mission, membership benefits, program, products and services; and a membership application section and an affiliate website.

3. A letter was developed in August 2005 to send to all school district superintendents requesting that they include RIASCD membership information and our brochure into each new teacher’s opening day folders. In this way, we reach out to new teachers and invite them to become members. Each Board member is also asked to nominate five new members from their schools or places of work.

4. Further, we have targeted young professionals by offering a free membership annually to pre-service teachers who attend a conference especially for them; we have also targeted central office administrators by having a Board member attend the Superintendents Association meeting annually



Gail Clark Dickson sharing ideas at the retreat



Gail Clark Dickson presents RIASCD a with Certificate of Appreciation from Dr. Gene Carter

to recruit new members for RIASCD. Other Board members who work in independent schools have targeted their own faculty through Institutional Membership. Beginning in 2006, we are undertaking a special membership campaign to make every principal and Superintendent in the state member. We have begun discussion with Rhode Island College regarding initiation of a student chapter, allowing the development of a broader base for new members and emerging leaders.

5. Our Board member from higher education has emailed her education faculty colleagues from the state's teacher preparation programs to invite them to join RIASCD and become active in our programs, committees, and Board. She has also encouraged them to promote us to their students.

6. For the past four or five years, we have been intentionally studying the demographics of our Board to focus on diversity of gender, ethnicity, job role and geographic location. Board needs are then identified and pursued to create a balance of demographic indicators.

7. When the RIASCD Constitution and Bylaws were revised in

2005, the following language was included: "All Leadership Council representatives from the Board of Directors must have been ASCD members for at least one year prior to assuming the position. RIASCD Board of Directors must maintain active membership in ASCD."

8. As a portion of the membership card mailed to all new and renewing members every year, RIASCD asks members to check off a committee or activity they would be willing to participate in. This postcard is then returned to the Executive Director who communicates the contact information to specified committee chairs. In turn, that committee chair makes a personal phone call or sends an e-mail to invite participation.

9. Membership plans and activities are aligned with the budget and primarily with the work of the Influence Committee. One example of this is the plan in the current budget to provide resources to conduct electronic member polls using our online web resources. These polls will allow us to better gauge the needs of our constituents while providing for interactive communication leading to better member engagement and retention.

10. With an increased focus on Influence, membership plans and activities have also taken on a new focus. Rather than relying on topical workshops and conferences with keynote speakers alone, RIASCD has focused more on sharing ASCD Position Statements and Influence Agenda items with our membership.

11. RIASCD recognized way back that collaboration was a logical mechanism to increase influence, draw members, and more effectively improve teaching and learning in our state.

Since 1999, we have collaborated with:

- The RI Department of Education (a variety of offices)
- The New England Gifted and Talented Association
- The Rhode Island Social Studies Association
- Rhode Island Association of School Principals
- The RI Center for School Leadership
- The Pell Center at Salve Regina University
- Rhode Island School Superintendents Association
- Rhode Island Association of School Committees
- The Institute for Teaching and Learning at the Roger Williams University School of Education

12. Further, RIASCD has designed a Professional Development Brochure that lists all of the professional organizations in the state that impact teaching and learning in one way or another. This brochure is distributed at conferences and workshops and is updated annually.

13. In an effort to provide services for educators who either cannot leave their classrooms or choose not to, we have elected to offer evening dinner events. In November 2007 we hosted our third "annual" Book Gala with an ASCD author.



Past and present Members celebrate our 20th anniversary held at Johnson and Wales University

14. In March we will again host our annual Pre-Service Teacher Conference. This conference, now in its fifth year, is moving around the state to a different institution of higher learning each year. The colleges and universities have been happy to host our event, and we have improved our name recognition and that of ASCD each time we offer the Pre-Service Teacher Conference.



Betty Calise presents Lucille Andolfo with Certificate of Appreciation

15. In addition, in 2003 when RIASCD offered afternoon workshops on Teacher Quality (NCLB), we repeated the same workshops in different parts of the state to more effectively accommodate teachers and their schedules.

16. We use name recognition and “branding” as a tool to increase membership. Lapel pins with our logo are available and distributed at every event we offer; our logo appears on specially printed workshop folders, and we have a RIASCD banner that appears in the registration area at each event.

17. RIASCD utilizes the ASCD Complimentary Memberships to build our member base. This year, a RI distinguished educator and the RI Department of Education legislative liaison have been identified to receive these free memberships

18. Our new website allows us to update and connect with members on daily basis, while providing valuable resources and dynamic content. In the next year, we will roll out online professional development courses, companion discussion boards for our presentations, and more interactive content and web resources to support our members. Our new website is located at <http://www.riascd.org>.

19. RIASCD holds annual Board retreats with the ASCD Regional Director in attendance as a facilitator. Reflection on its Strategic Plan, Board development, budget development and action planning for committees such as program, influence, and communication are highlighted activities at this retreat. This past summer a decision was made to merge the two committees of Membership and Leadership and Governance. The Board annually reviews its Constitution and defines/ reviews clear standards for Board membership.

20. Board membership currently consists of eighteen members, up from fourteen last year. Leadership representation on the Board is sought by using a demographic analysis approach for gender, job role, geography, race and age.

21. RIASCD has a paid Executive Director.

22. Board work is delegated through a committee structure, according to the RIASCD strategic plan (Members of the Board will facilitate standing committees that will report to the Board of Directors on a regular basis.).

23. Committee participation is used to promote nomination to the Board.

24. Additionally, a diverse pool of candidates for Board membership/ leadership roles is developed, including higher education, students, private education, etc. Self-nominations are also encouraged through various venues such as the newsletter, membership brochure and evaluation tools at conferences.

25. As new members come onto the Board, the Executive Director and/or President provide(s) an orientation and describe(s) roles and working relationships.

26. A Board calendar of meetings and events is implemented so that varied work schedules are considered and regular professional enrichment is provided. An agenda is produced and communicated to Board members electronically prior to meetings and is available on our website. These agendas assure that Board meetings reflect our strategic plan.

27. Annually, Board members self-evaluate using a personal reflection tool developed by ASCD.

28. A Board Manual has been developed so that each Board member know his/her role, responsibilities, and the high expectations for Membership on the Board.

29. The Executive Committee structure is used to conduct affiliate business between regularly scheduled Board meetings.

30. Separate subcommittees meet with members outside of Board or General Membership Meetings.

31. RIASCD has created and nurtured a collaborative culture among its Board and committee members.

Local Impact on the State

32. Annually at the Pre-Service Teacher Conference, student attendees are given a one year membership in RIASCD. With this strategy, we have been able to bolster the ranks of our young teachers and emerging leaders, from 42 in 2005 to 105 in 2007.

33. RIASCD strives to connect with a wide variety of other professional development organizations in the state due to the demographics of our membership. From teachers to professors, consultants to central office personnel, RIASCD attempts to meet the needs of its constituents by working with other organizations that share many of our members and member concerns. Some of our Board members sit as Board members of these other organizations.



Board and general members meeting at the 2007 Northeast Regional Affiliate Conference in Boston

34. We have begun to offer RIASCD memberships to other professional development organizations in the state who offer us reciprocity. Currently, The Association of School Principals and the Rhode Island Middle Level Educators hold



Ken DiPietro and Patrick Guida at the Closing the Gap Summit in June 2006

memberships in RIASCD. We also now have a RIMLE Board liaison who sits on our Board as a non-voting member.

35. Through our many professional development opportunities and collaborations, there is evidence of meaningful networking among a wide variety of members. Examples include the Leadership Institute cosponsored by RIASCD and the RI Principals Association, the Closing the Achievement Gap Summit, the Pre-Service Teacher Conferences and the Summer Institute and Seminars co-sponsored with RIDE on the Social Studies Guide to the State Framework.

36. RIASCD hosted a Summit on June 1, 2006 entitled "Closing the Gap in Special Needs Student Performance". This Summit presented the findings from a research study and involved state leaders from the K-16 educational community and the legislature. This activity is aligned

to Worldwide ASCD's "Whole Child" initiative position papers, and RIASCD's position paper on "The Whole Child and Assessment".

37. The RIASCD Board was invited by RIDE (Rhode Island Department of Education) to expand this study to the English Language Learner and to provide professional development to the RIDE staff.

38. A listserv has been developed to improve Board communications.

39. The RIASCD Newsletters and Journal are distributed statewide.

40. Professional development is provided at all General Membership meetings.

Contributions to ASCD Community at Large

41. At the Summer Board Retreat, the Executive Director annually reports on the status of joint dues. Members are encouraged to support the Joint Dues Program.

42. At every conference and workshop, ASCD products are available for purchase. Conference folders generally include ASCD membership brochures, Position Statements and more recently, the Influence Agenda. More often than not, we make use of the ASCD Traveling Exhibit to showcase ASCD product.

43. A significant honor for RIASCD occurred in 2004 when Dr. Gene Carter traveled to Rhode Island to participate in a conference on globalization which we co-sponsored with The Pell Center at Salve Regina University in Newport, RI.

44. RIASCD is viewed as a resource to the ASCD community as evidenced by the number of panels and committees we are represented on:

- Lucille Andolfo, Leadership Council Panel, July-September 2005, and Position Action Team
- Bill Fasano, Legislative Agenda Committee and Position Development Team
- Ken DiPietro, Past President of RIASCD, has been a candidate for a number of ASCD offices, including President-Elect.
- Ken Fish (a RIASCD nominee) served on the ASCD High School Reform Task Force

45. With the educational summit hosted in June 2006, RIASCD became recognized as an “authority” on interpreting the data in schools that had successfully closed the achievement gap between regular education and special education students. The study by RIASCD resulted in a set of identifiable factors of high performing schools that are related to both instruction and instructional support.



Administrating the Book Sale at the 2007 Northeast Regional Affiliate Conference in Boston



Bernie DiLullo, Bill Fasano, Gail Clark Dickson, and Betty Calise at the 2007 Board Retreat

46. Currently, Elizabeth Brito, Executive Director, represents RIASCD on the Center for School Leadership Board of Directors, and on the Leadership Module Development Planning Group convened by the Deputy Commissioner of Education for the State of Rhode Island.

47. Two Leadership Council representatives attend the LEAP Conference annually.

48. One of the past Leadership Council representatives was the Co-Chair of the Position Development Committee and a member of the Legislative Committee. Another past LC member served on the Position Action Committee and also was a member of the Leadership Council Panel.

49. The President of RIASCD is on the Leadership Council. She began her term while serving as President.

50. Ken Fish, a RIASCD member and former RIDE Director, was a member of the ASCD Secondary Reform Commission.

51. A large number of RIASCD Board members attend the ASCD

Worldwide Annual Conference, and some are presenters. Representative delegates attend ASCD worldwide meetings such as LEAP, regional affiliate leaders meetings, and regional conferences.

52. A majority of Board members serve on state and national professional organization Boards.

53. RIASCD professional development opportunities utilize ASCD speakers, materials, monographs and literature.

Appendix B - Membership and Governance

1. Membership Database (held for confidentiality) and RIASCD Membership Dosaggregation and Pie Chart .
2. Membership brochure.
3. Membership letter to all superintendents.
4. Letter to Pre-Service teachers, student chapter e-mail, and independent school memo.
5. Letter to Higher Education faculty.
6. Board Demographics Analyses.
7. RIASCD Constitution.
8. Membership card.
9. General membership survey from website.
10. Inclusion of ASCD positions and legislative agenda with conference materials.
11. Noted collaborations in narrative.
12. Professional organizations brochure. (Appendix A)
13. Book Gala flyers (Appendix D).
14. Pre-Service Teacher Conference flyers (Appendix D).
15. Flyer for Doris Anselmo workshop flyer.
16. RIASCD banner.
17. ASCD complimentary memberships.
18. RIASCD website: <http://www.riascd.org>
19. RIASCD holds annual Board retreats. During retreats we follow an agenda, we review our strategic plan, and budget. We also review the Code of Ethics and continue board development.
20. Board membership is sought by using a demographic analysis approach for gender, job role, geography, race and age.
21. RIASCD has a paid Executive Director.
22. Board work is delegated through a committee structure, according to the RIASCD strategic plan. Action planning is done by committee.
23. Committee participation is used to promote nomination to the Board.
24. Self-nominations to committees are encouraged.
25. As new members come onto the Board, the Executive Director and/or President provide(s) an orientation and describe(s) roles and working relationships.
26. A proposed calendar of meetings and events and board meeting agenda.
27. Annually, Board members self-evaluate using a personal reflection tool developed by ASCD.
28. A Board Manual has been developed where roles, responsibilities, and expectations are delineated.
29. The Executive Committee structure is used to conduct affiliate business between regularly scheduled Board meetings.
30. Separate subcommittees meet.
31. RIASCD has created and nurtured a collaborative culture.
32. refer to number 4
33. Noted collaborations in narrative.
34. Reciprocal memberships.
35. Noted collaboration in narrative. (see Appendix D)
36. RIASCD hosted a Summit entitled "Closing the Gap in Special Needs Student Performance". (See Appendix A)
37. The RIASCD Board was invited by RIDE (Rhode Island Department of Education) to expand this study to the English Language Learner and to provide professional development to the RIDE staff.

38. A listserv has been developed to improve Board communications. (see Appendix A)
39. The RIASCD Newsletters and Journal are distributed statewide. (see Appendix A)
40. Professional development is provided at all General Membership meetings. (see Appendix A)
41. Joint dues status report.
42. Traveling exhibit. (see photo on page 25)
43. Dr. Gene Carter flyer (see Appendix D).
44. Representation on ASCD panels and committees.
45. Closing the Gap grant. (see Appendix C)
46. Executive Director represents RIASCD at state level.
47. Two Leadership Council representatives attend the LEAP Conference annually.
48. One of the past Leadership Council representatives was the Co-Chair of the Position Development Committee and a member of the Legislative Committee. A current LC member served on the Position Action Committee and also was a member of the Leadership Council Panel.
49. The Past-President of RIASCD is on the Leadership Council. She began her term while serving as President.
50. Ken Fish, a RIASCD member and former RIDE Director, is a member of the ASCD Secondary Reform Commission.
51. A large number of RI-ASCD Board members attend the ASCD Worldwide Annual Conference, and some are presenters.
52. A majority of Board members serve on state and national professional organization Boards.
53. RIASCD professional development opportunities utilize ASCD speakers, materials, monographs and literature.



Influence



Chair



Bill Fasano
Executive Director
RI Middle Level Educators

Introduction

Rhode Island ASCD has grown in the area of influence over the last six years. We have always known what we stand for and have always worked for what we believe in, but the idea of influence was seen in the past as an extension of our programs. We believed that our extensive professional development activities gave us success and visibility, resulting in great impact on the RI educational community. This was the realm of our influence. However, as ASCD has focused itself on moving from success to significance, so too has RIASCD. Our understanding of this shift has seen us refocus from emphasis on the development of professional development programs to reader advocacy of the whole child concept. We have accomplished this through public forums such as a professional journal of research on differentiated instruction, The Leading Edge (partially funded by an ASCD special projects grant) to several grant studies that have looked at issues affecting and affected by public policy. Our most recent effort was the ASCD grant-funded study on Closing the Achievement Gap Between Special Education and General Education that culminated in a summit to which were invited the state legislators, representatives from the governor's office, staff from

the RI Department of Education, the RI State Superintendents Association, the RI Association of School Committees, and other educational leaders. The study involved a networking of state leaders in special and general education, who met with RIASCD to conduct a trend analysis of state assessment results over three years. We then surveyed the identified high performing



Luci Andolfo, Betty Brito, Rep. Patrick Kennedy's assistant and Bill Fasano

schools to see what practices are making the difference for special education students. These findings have been summarized and aligned with best practices in other published works and documents, such as Marzano's What Works in Schools, Turning Points 2000, Breaking Ranks II, the RI Secondary Regulations, and the RIDE Core Capacities. The culmination of this study was the Educational Summit, hosted by RIASCD in June 2006, which positioned us as a leader and resource in the state of RI. At this summit, we shared ASCD and



RIASCD positions as well as our study findings. We are now being requested to follow up our study for the ELL population by the state Department of Education. This is a huge difference in influence from the days when we ran workshops and conferences.

Highlighted Activities

1. Influence plans are structured around the ASCD Legislative Agenda and support the work of RIASCD in Rhode Island.

2. As an affiliate whose mission is to improve the learning and teaching for the success of all learners, the focus has been in communicating the five legislative priorities of ASCD.

3. Connections are made with the affiliate committees to promote the RIASCD agenda and support the ASCD Position and Issues statements. Position papers and the legislative agenda, including the Whole Child Initiative video presentation, are shared at Board meetings so that all members are knowledgeable.

4. With the increased focus on Influence, affiliate committees have also taken on a new role by sharing ASCD Position Statements and Influence Agenda items,

including the Whole Child Initiative video presentation, with the membership. This is done through distribution at meetings, conferences, the summit, and through print material such as the journal and newsletters.

5. For the past eleven years RIASCD has been a partner with the northeast regional affiliates in the regional conference. RIASCD has assumed responsibility along with New York for organizing and running the affiliate bookstore.

6. RIASCD Board members have presented and/or co-presented at various Affiliate Leadership conferences, i.e. the regional affiliate leadership meetings, ALC, etc.



Bill Fasano, Betty Brito, and Luci Andolfo on Capitol Hill

7. RIASCD Leadership Council members have co-chaired ASCD Position Development Team and served on the Position Action Team.

8. Board members are regularly invited to represent the affiliate on significant educational committees and task forces:

- Lucille Andolfo, Leadership Council Panel, July - September 2005
- Bill Fasano, Legislative Agenda Committee and Co-Chair Position Development Team
- Ken Fish (a RIASCD nominee) served on the ASCD High School Reform Task Force
- Betty Brito, Executive Director, invited by the Rhode Island Department of Education to sit on their Leadership Module Development Team
- Betty also serves on the Advisory Committee of the Rhode Island Center for School Leadership

9. The affiliate leadership has been using the RIASCD Board listserv to communicate issues and concerns regarding influence and then address them through its affiliate listserv; this includes messages for the

Educator Advocates program of ASCD, and the Learning First Alliance.

10. Through its associations with other legislative and educational partners, RIASCD has been building coalitions. The work with the Rhode Island Civics Project that was initiated with the General Assembly has put RIASCD in a position to work first hand with legislative and educational leaders. Contact has also been made with the legislative liaison at the Rhode Island Department of Education to formulate a direct link to legislators.

Local Impact on the State

11. RIASCD has played a significant role in impacting the change in policy in Rhode Island through the work of some of its members on the Regents Committee on Student and Academic Programs. As the committee's work has progressed, affiliate leaders have been involved in testimony on these proposed changes.

12. RIASCD has played a significant role in impacting the change in policy in Rhode Island through the work of some of its members on the teacher certification regulations. One Board member served on the initial design team for the IPlan; another Board member was the Teacher Fellow who crafted the architecture of the I-Plan and coordinated the pilot program for four years before it became public policy.

13. As a result of the Facing the Challenge influence grant and the Closing the Achievement Gap in Achievement work that RIASCD has been conducting, educational and political leaders have sought input from affiliate leadership on the findings of the work.

14. RIASCD is called upon regularly for its input and assistance by the Rhode Island Department of Education. As a result of its Pre-Service Teacher Conference, the state colleges and universities also have recognized the affiliate for its work in this area.

15. In October, 2004, Dr. Gene Carter traveled to RI to participate in a conference on globalization which we co-sponsored with The Pell Center at Salve Regina University in Newport, RI. The Rhode Island Department of Education was also represented at the conference by Peter McWalters, RI Commissioner of Education.

16. Last summer, RIASCD was asked to partner with the Rhode Island Association of School Principals to offer a two-day conference on Developing Professional Learning Communities. RIASCD obtained the keynote speakers for this event, including Pete Hall, ASCD's OYEA winner in 2005, and Dr. Tom Many from the Dufours organization. These connections to speakers result from our involvement with both worldwide and regional conferences, and the networking therein. This past summer, we collaborated with the Rhode Island Department of Education and the Rhode Island Social Studies Association to present a two-day Civics Institute.

Contributions to ASCD Community at Large

17. RIASCD can be viewed as a resource to the ASCD community as evidenced by the number of panels and committees that have affiliate representation: Lucille Andolfo, Leadership Council Panel, July - September 2005 and Position Action Team; Bill Fasano, Legislative Agenda Committee and Co-chair of the Position Development Team; Ken Fish (a RIASCD nominee) served on the ASCD High School Reform Task Force; Ken DiPietro, Past President of RIASCD, has been a member of the Constituent Relations Committee.

18. RIASCD has been able to tell its story through its work with ASCD worldwide at such meetings as LEAP and other

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Spring 2006

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RIASCD Receives ASCD Influence Grant
By Lucille Andolfo, President, RIASCD

represented by Dr. Mary Canole, Director of Progressive Support and Intervention. Participants were invited to analyze their own assessment data using a prototype that board members Dr. Vincent Hawkins and Ken DiPietro developed. They were provided with a template on disk, and the workshop enabled them to compare the analysis and discuss with others the results. Further work revolved around future study group sessions and led to the development of a survey to go out to schools identified as making significant or substantial progress in closing gaps. Additional data from the Rhode Island Department of Education enabled the Grant Oversight Committee and facilitator Ken DiPietro to study schools not represented in the initial study group workshop.

A second session was held on March 10. Data shared at that session identified sixty-two (62) schools where the performance indicators varied by fewer than ten points between general and special needs students or where the gap was reduced by over 50% in three years. These identified schools had been asked to share their success stories with us through the completion of a survey, and many of them had responded to that end. The purpose of this meeting was to identify and summarize promising practices in closing the gap from the responses on the surveys, and to plan a follow-up Summit of state leaders where RIASCD would unveil results. While this session was significantly attended, the work was impressive. With the assistance of the Superintendents' Association, a Summit has been planned for June 21 at Rhode Island College. Invitations have been sent to Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, RIDE Personnel, State and Federal Legislators, the Governor's Office, School Committee Members, and RIASCD Board members.

RIASCD MISSION STATEMENT
(REVISED JULY, 2002)

Rhode Island ASCD is a diverse community of educators acting as a dynamic force for educational excellence. Our mission is to improve the quality of teaching for the success of all learners.

Cover Photo
JULY 31 AND AUGUST 1, 2006
RIASCD and RIASA
(Rhode Island Association of School Principals)
Will Present a Summer Institute:
Building a Professional Learning Community

Spring 2006 issue of our newsletter, *The Beacon*

Appendix C - Influence

Artifacts

1. Influence plans are structured around the ASCD Legislative Agenda (<http://www.ascd.org/portal/site/ascd>).
2. This document serves as an archive of our achievements in this area.
3. Cross-references in committee reports (see narrative).
4. Print materials such as the The Leading Edge journal and Beacon newsletter (see Appendix A).
5. Northeast Regional Affiliates Conference and NEASC Conference Planning Committee minutes (see Appendix D).
6. Presentations at Affiliate Leadership conferences and meetings.
7. LC members have co-chaired ASCD Position Development Team and served on the Position Action Team.
8. Leadership Council Panel, July - September 2005.
9. RIASCD Board listserv and LFA Connect e-mail. (see Appendix A)
10. On-going partnerships.
11. Board members maintain active involvement with Regents Committee on Student and Academic Programs.
12. Teacher certification regulations.
13. Facing the Challenge and the Closing the Achievement Gap influence grants.
14. Pre-Service Teacher Conference and other co-sponsored conferences (see Appendix D).
15. Dr. Gene Carter flyer (see Appendix D).
16. RIASCD and Rhode Island Association of School Principals summer leadership conference on developing Professional Learning Communities (see Appendix D).
17. Affiliate representation on panels and committees (see number 8).
18. LEAP, LC meetings and Northeast Regional Affiliate Leaders meetings.
19. Promotion of Learning First Alliance Educator Advocates and other committee structures in which Board members are involved.
20. "Day on the Hill," LC, and LEAP.
21. RIASCD promoting the mission of ASCD.

affiliate leaders meetings, as well as the Northeast Regional Affiliate Leaders meeting that is held annually. In March 2006, RIASCD was host to this meeting in Providence, RI.

19. RIASCD has been developing a grassroots network through its promotion of Educator Advocates, the Learning First Alliance, and other committee structures in which Board members are involved.



LEAP 2006, "Day on the Hill," Senator Reed with Rhode Island delegates

20. RIASCD Board members have been able to advance ASCD positions through their "Day on the Hill" activity at ASCD leadership meetings (ALC/LEAP) and through their contacting governmental officials at the state level, including Department of Education leaders.

21. RIASCD has built a trust and respect with ASCD worldwide through its continuing efforts to promote the mission of ASCD. Working through the regional representative and other trusted members of the ASCD staff, we have made our mark on ASCD.



Program

Chair



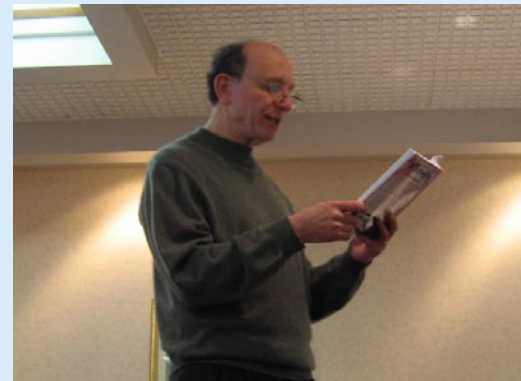
Judy Paolucci
Assistant Superintendent
Narragansett Public Schools

Introduction

The programs of the Rhode Island Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development have evolved over the years to meet the needs of the Rhode Island educational community. The formats of these programs have been exemplary and have used best practices. Whenever possible, individual events are organized around themes that connect the event to a greater purpose. Such themes extend beyond one or two years to provide the organization with continuity and purpose. Workshops, conferences, meetings and study group sessions have taken place across the entire state, from Westerly to Burrillville and from Newport to Woonsocket. In such a small state, organizations often compete for members and influence. Through our collaborative work, we have been seen as a partner for reform work. For example, when each high school was provided with feedback following the commissioner's review of their reform efforts, RIASCD was listed as an organization that could support their on-going efforts. We have partnered with educational collaboratives, districts and agencies, as well as the many other professional organizations listed elsewhere in this portfolio.

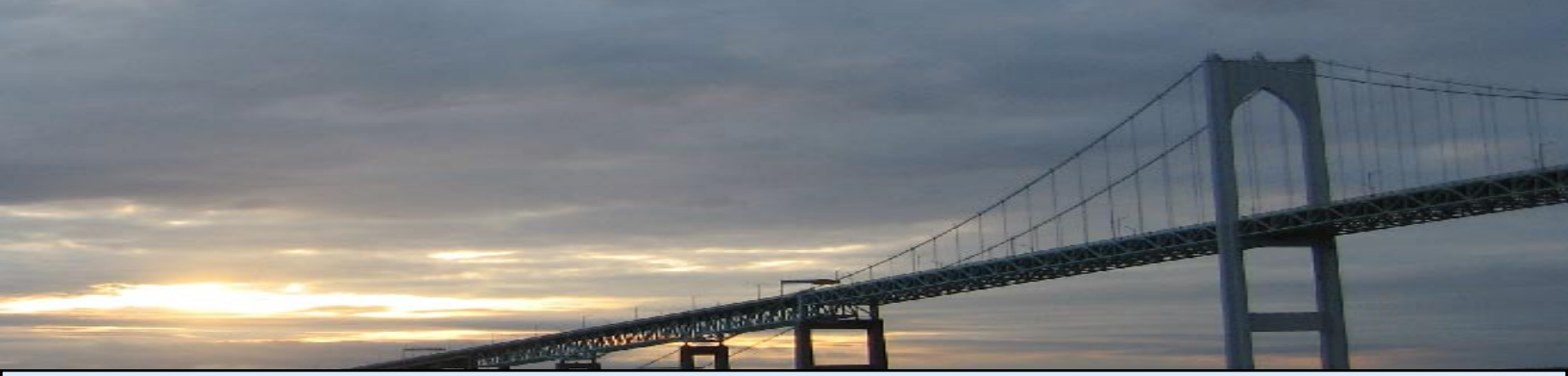
Highlighted Activities

1. Over the past few years, we have developed a few signature events that we hope will bring members together to both learn and serve others. Our book gala is held each November and involves dinner and discussion with an ASCD author. Two years ago, John Barell discussed his book, *Developing*



David Kobrin at the 2006 Book Gala

More Curious Minds. Participants thoroughly enjoyed the intimate, intellectual conversation with the author. Last year, David Kobrin discussed his book, *In There with the Kids*. This year, Judie Haynes shared her book *Getting Started with English Language Learners: How Educators Can Meet the Challenge* in conjunction with our sustained theme. In previous years, we spoke at the Barnes and Nobles Educator Days events to publicize the book galas. Barnes and Nobles furthermore stocked copies of the texts so that Rhode Island educators could have multiple opportunities to



purchase the book.

2. A yearly event that serves new educators is our Pre-Service Conference. Now in its fifth year, the Pre-Service Conference brings together over a hundred pre-service teachers utilizing a format that imitates other professional conferences by providing a keynote speaker and breakout sessions. Teacher preparation programs at Rhode Island institutions: Rhode Island College, the University of Rhode Island, Roger Williams University, Salve Regina University, Providence College, RI School of Design, Brown University and Johnson and Wales University now vie for co-hosting this event, which we have improved over time by carefully analyzing the evaluations provided by the participants.

3. Our yearly event is a spring conference that focuses on the enduring theme. We have maintained a theme of “Meeting the Needs of All Learners” over the past few years and have brought in presenters, including Gayle Gregory in 2004 and Deb Burns in 2005, who have focused on differentiation practices. Last year, we continued with the theme by presenting Virginia Rojas, who focused on meeting the needs of English language learners. In 2008, Rojas will continue with a follow-up workshop for our members.

4. RIASCD uses data to design programs, but unlike many organizations, this data is not restricted to interest surveys. Since the focus of the organization is student learning as well as teaching, data must be similarly focused. We have used state testing data to look at the achievement gaps between special education students and all students and English language learners and all students. Our programs, like our influence grant summit, “Closing the Achievement Gap”, held in June of 2006 and our spring 2007 workshop with Virginia Rojas, respond to the needs identified by this data analysis.

5. We have tried several formats to provide opportunities for sustained work in learning communities. Following a workshop on differentiation practices, two of our Board members facilitated study groups in two different geographical regions of the state. We also used our general membership meetings to provide follow-up to this workshop. Other professional

development provided at general meetings includes effective use of teaming and common planning time, Schools Attuned, improving student behavior, and Response to Intervention. Our plans include a rollout in January 2008 of the inquiry-based science common tasks for the Rhode Island assessment system.

6. We have utilized diverse locations, times and formats in an effort to meet the needs of our members. Hotels, regional collaboratives, districts, conference centers, libraries, colleges and schools have been sites for our programs. After school, full-day, programs paired with governance meetings, multi-day, Summer Institutes, dinner programs, semester and year-long graduate courses are the many different formats that our programs have included.

Local Impact on the State

7. The Closing the Achievement Gap Summit blended the work of the program and influence committees to advance the achievement of the mission and vision of the affiliate and the Association. Many stakeholders from the educational and



RIASCD exhibit from one of our many conferences

political communities attended.

8. In addition to using data to influence program choices, we leverage resources by partnering with other educational organizations by responding to specific needs of groups of our members. An example of the former is the summer 2006 workshop we co-sponsored with the Rhode Island Association of School Principals (RIASP). Together, we brought Dr. Tom Many to Rhode Island to provide an overview of Professional Learning Communities. RIASCD brought in Pete Hall, the 2005 ASCD OYEA winner, to connect his work as a school principal to the theme of professional learning communities. In addition, members of the RIASCD served as breakout session presenters during the event

9. An example of an innovative way we have leveraged resources to provide innovative programs involves the spring 2006 workshop with Virginia Rojas. Six Rhode Island districts are members of a Title III coalition. In their Title III grant, these districts set aside funds to train teachers to better meet the needs of their English Language Learners (ELL's) in the mainstream classroom.



Judy Paolucci presenting Understanding by Design at one of our pre-service conferences



Eric Jensen, presenting at our conference

Knowing that they did not have the expertise to host a major presenter and that the numbers of teachers participating from these districts would represent less than half as many that would be needed to economically host this event, the districts sought out RIASCD to sponsor the workshop. While Title III funds will guarantee financial viability for this event, RIASCD can solicit additional participants to enable success. Both of these examples also provide evidence that the RIASCD exhibits high collaboration among Rhode Island districts and organizations and responds to the diverse needs of our members through strong two-way communication.

10. A list of the programs presented over the past four years verifies that we have responded to the needs of individual members as well as the entire state. For example, in 2003, when educators struggled to meet the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act as well as Rhode Island legislation focused on literacy, we hosted Connie Prevatte, who presented a workshop on balanced literacy. We hosted a presentation on the state regulations relative to literacy a year later. In 2003 we also focused on social studies in response to work

being done state-wide regarding social studies standards. That fall, we provided two sessions in two locations across the state focused on what teachers need to do to be recognized as being "highly qualified." We hosted Teacher Fellows who spoke on the new way for teachers to get recertified, the I-Plan. In 2005 we brought two highly knowledgeable special educators together to report on the reauthorization of IDEA at a complimentary breakfast forum for parents, local advisory councils, and state parent advocacy organizations.

Contributions to ASCD Community at Large

11. RIASCD has partnered with other affiliates in the northeast to present a regional conference that aligns with the local and worldwide ASCD mission and vision. RIASCD has partnered with New York and has sole responsibility for organizing and staffing the book store at this conference, thus promoting ASCD books and products.

12. Most importantly, we have leveraged resources available due to our affiliation with ASCD. For example, the book galas invite ASCD authors, and require that we pay expenses only. We, in turn, promote ASCD books and products. In addition, in 2004 we invited Dr. Gene Carter, ASCD Executive Director, who presented a plenary session on the "Globalization of Education."

Appendix D - Program

13. We sell ASCD books and products and showcase the ASCD Traveling Exhibit at our conferences and programs.

14. RIASCD Board members participate in ASCD conferences, meetings and events.

15. At the Pre-Service Teacher Conference, ASCD books were given to the participants in gift bags as a way of welcoming them into the profession as well as introducing them to ASCD.



Kathy Mellor, National Teacher of the Year, discussing support for ESL students

Artifacts

1. Book Gala flyers for John Barell, David Kobrin, and Judie Haynes.
2. Pre-Service Conference flyer.
3. Gayle Gregory in 2004, Deb Burns in 2005, and Virginia Rojas in 2007 and 2008.
4. Closing the Achievement Gap held in June of 2006 and our spring 2007 workshop with Virginia Rojas, respond to the needs identified by this data analysis.
5. Study groups in two different geographical regions of the state.
6. Hotels, regional collaboratives, Summer Institutes, and dinner programs.
7. The Closing the Achievement Gap summit.
8. Rhode Island Association of School Principals (RIASP) brought in Pete Hall, the 2005 ASCD OYEA winner.
9. An example of an innovative way we have leveraged resources to provide innovative programs involves the spring 2006 workshop with Virginia Rojas.
10. A list of the programs presented over the past four years.
11. RIASCD partners with New York to organize and staff the book store at this conference; this promotes ASCD books and products. (see photo on page 17)
12. Promote ASCD books and products. In addition, in 2004 we invited Dr. Gene Carter, ASCD Executive Director.
13. We sell ASCD books and products and showcase the ASCD Traveling Exhibit at our conferences and programs.
14. RIASCD Board members participate in ASCD conferences, meetings and events.
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