

IT'S THE CLASSROOM, STUPID!

Making Teachers, Students, and America Competitive Through Whole Teaching - Whole Learning

PART I

By Victor P. Maiorana, Ph.D.

Why is the reform of American education stalled? Why is little headway being made in student achievement and graduation rates? Isn't this the greatest mystery in education today? Years and years of research, studies, reports, grants, programs, books, articles, and dollars and yet student achievement in content comprehension and in gaining essential thinking, reading, and writing skills

NAACP EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The NAACP Education Committee is dedicated to providing informational programs and becoming a liaison regarding educational opportunities to the Southern Nevada Community. They plan to accomplish this by utilizing parents, community groups, private industry, institutions of higher learning, public and private school systems in Southern Nevada, churches, and concerned citizens.

The purpose of this committee is not only to distribute scholarship dollars, but to be a community resource of where scholarship applications, financial aid services and other programs can be found.

They are committed to belief that access to education is a concern of all of us, not just the school or the student. They will provide this access.

The committee is committed to educating students, before they enter high school, to prepare them to continue their education after high school.

They will develop seminars on financial aid, scholarships, preparing for college, and endeavor to remain committed to providing valuable services to the community with the hope that this can contribute to more of our young people going on to higher education.

They will encourage these students participation in NAACP activities, as well as membership into NAACP. It is important for the students to have the backing of an organization of strength such as the NAACP.

continues to fall and drop-out rates are a national disgrace. Why?

We are looking in the wrong places for solutions. We continue to rely on the manager's, politician's and social scientist's solutions to educational reform. School vouchers, school-based management, curriculum redesign, theme schools, articulation agreements, testing standards, and outcomes-based education are all organizational approaches to reform. They do not alter the universally employed rote-inducing approach to education that now suffocates the actual acts of teaching and learning. So it is no surprise that taken individually, or together, these

"solutions" have little or no impact on student achievement. So we face a paradox: we seek to solve an educational problem with non-educational means. Is it any wonder that the educational reform movement is stalled.

Now here is an incredibly radical idea: to fix what is wrong educationally with American schools and colleges we must employ educational solutions. We must change the very nature of teaching and learning in the classroom and in instructional materials. We must grow the *Natural Analyst* that is present in each of our students. All teachers in all disciplines must help all students develop analytical skills in thinking, speaking, and problem solving. Such learner-centered simultaneity, such contextual literacy, such whole teaching - whole learning, must be (See Classroom, Page 11)

PROMOTING LITERACY!



Susan Bailey, Manager of Community Relations, Phillip Morris Companies inc., third from left, joins participants at a community picnic celebrating the start of the Gateway: Paths to Adult Learning Literacy program in Los Angeles. With her are, from left: Ezekiel Mobley, Executive Director, United Neighborhood Council; State Senator Teresa Hughes (D-25th Senate District) and Gregg Hewkin, Operations Manager, Breyers Ice Cream Company. The picnic was hosted by Breyers, a local subsidiary of Kraft General Foods and by Phillip Morris Companies Inc., Gateway's national sponsor. "Gateway can move literacy to the forefront of the agenda in this growing community of South Central Los Angeles and in the general L.A. area," said Bailey. Gateway uses specially-trained volunteer tutors whose instructional techniques are based on the confidence-building theory that every adult learner already possesses many applicable skills. To qualify as a volunteer tutor, an applicant needs a high school diploma or equivalent. Learners and tutors can call the Gateway hotline at (800) 766-2828.

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