



**REFLECTIONS SUMMER 2004**  
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**ASSOCIATION FOR SUPERVISION AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT**

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

## Celebrating Leadership

This year's theme, celebrating leadership, couldn't be more appropriate. As we dedicate this year's journal to an exceptional educational leader and our editor of the *Reflections* journal for the past six years, Joan McCreath, we are reminded of how important it is to celebrate the leadership around us. In whatever capacity individuals work, whenever they take the initiative to reach out to others to build and strengthen that community of learners, tremendous benefits are realized by all involved.

We consider the power of this leadership when we read Ian Smith's appraisal of Thomas Sergiovanni. Ian reminds us of the significance of Sergiovanni's concept of moral voice in leadership and its potential to build community and drive school improvement. In turn, Jim Gibbs offers a very convincing look at how the organization, process and leadership found in professional learning communities can do much to enhance and support very worthwhile professional development for educators.

In support of the importance of leadership in strengthening others, Debra Radi considers the significant contributions of mentoring to the professional development of teachers. She acknowledges that "a mentor's primary role is to nurture us into new metaphors" and "challenge our perspectives." Joan Martin helps us look at the practical aspects of mentoring in her review of an ASCD publication, *Making Mentoring Work* by Laura Lipton and Bruce Wellman. In turn, we acknowledge and celebrate the leadership of our fellow Manitobans when we read about the opportunity two of our Manitoba educators, Patti Field and Sheena Braun, had to present their work on the Louis Riel Mentorship Program at this year's national ASCD conference in New Orleans.

In her essay, *From Good To Great*, Leslie Eblie looks at the level of application of Jim Collins' research on key

principles of leadership to the enhanced functioning of a student support services system. She contends that unwavering faith and focus, coupled with a tenacity in thought and action are significant leadership elements that make the difference.

We further celebrate this capacity for leadership to transform and create when we look at the tremendous benefits realized for all concerned by the partnership between Tec Voc High School and Manitoba Aerospace Human Resources Coordinating Committee that began in 1994. In 2000, the Conference Board of Canada awarded the two participants with the *Partners in Education Award for Excellence in Business-Education Partnerships*. With the same sort of tenacity and foresight, Career Trek, through its unique, experiential programming, has brought young boys and girls in danger of opting out of school, closer to realizing their potential and understanding the range of educational opportunities that await them.

We end the journal with two book reviews that bring us closer to understanding the positive influence inherent in good leadership practices. Tara Petrychko's review of James Davis' book *Learning To Lead: A Handbook for Postsecondary Administrators*, helps us understand the importance of applying good leadership skills in addressing a range of situations. In Joan Martin's book review of Mary Ellen Bargerhuff's research on the role of leadership in supporting and nurturing an inclusive school environment, Joan reminds us that the power of innovation and problem solving are key attributes of influential leadership.

All in all, these journal articles help us acknowledge and celebrate the capacity of educational leadership to make a real difference in our schools. There is much to learn from the different perspectives that are presented. Enjoy!