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InterACT



Issue 2

Active Citizenship Today

Spring 1993

ACT Project Update

A service learning program of the Close Up Foundation and the Constitutional Rights Foundation, funded by the DeWitt Wallace - Reader's Digest Fund.

ACT Partners

Close Up and CRF held staff meetings in December and January to assess the project's development. The purpose of the meetings was to ensure a uniform framework for the development of the overall project, while also enabling each district to develop in a way that meets its distinct needs. In order to clarify the core elements for all of the pilot sites, common goals and benchmarks were reaffirmed for the spring semester.

Resource Materials

In December ACT delivered the "Starter Kit" to participating districts. The Kit is based on the ACT classroom framework and contains practical classroom activities and project ideas. Participating teachers are field testing the materials this spring and providing feedback and original ideas to the ACT staff to include in the development process of the final high school student and teacher resource materials. The final teacher guide will expand on the content of the Starter Kit to include more lessons and activities utilizing the ACT teaching approach, the framework, and motivating students to do community service. The guide will also include information and tips on student evaluation, working with community agencies, and coordinating the logistics of a service learning program. The student guide will supplement the ACT program and teacher guide, but also serve as a stand-alone guide to youth civic participation in the community. Participants of the 1993 ACT Institute will review a draft of both guides as part of the development process.

Training

Each district has been asked to identify a cadre of lead teachers to help with training issues, staff development, evaluation, and the general implementation of ACT. The lead teachers will also establish a system to monitor teacher needs and coordinate these with the ongoing ACT training. Spring teacher training has centered on how to apply the ACT elements to individual classrooms and specific issues identified by each district. Training will also include classroom visits and meetings with small groups of teachers. The ACT staff is currently developing training, resources, and techniques for establishing systematic cooperation among teachers and community based-organizations.

Summer Institute

The second ACT Institute is set for June 19-24, 1993 in Washington, D.C. Each district will bring a team of participants, including some who attended last year, representing teachers, administrators, students, community agency members, and businesses. Key items on the agenda are: District reports on the first year with ACT; time for teachers to share ideas; time for district teams to meet; introduction of new materials, and an examination of federal and state education and service learning policies as they relate to ACT. A limited number of additional spaces are available for those interested in service learning, its institutionalization, practical implementation, and sustainability. The price per person is \$695.*

**Based on double occupancy, this includes five nights hotel stay, meals for five days, and all conference fees. Transportation is not included. For more information contact Frank Dirks at the Close Up Foundation, (800-336-5479, ext. 350).*

Send Feedback! Any questions, concerns, and suggestions? Send them to *InterACT* editor, Donna Power at Close Up Foundation, 44 Canal Center Plaza, Alexandria, VA 22314 (703) 706-3640.