

## *From the President*

*By Kristine Condon*



All three of IASCD's major activities this year are tied to a single theme:

***Differentiation of Instruction:  
By Practitioners,  
For Practitioners.***

Registration numbers for the annual **Fall Institute**, hosted this year by Drake University was beyond our expectations. In fact, in reserving space there at the Olmstead Center for fall 2007, we have added additional second floor rooms allowing us to serve a larger participant group more effectively. Special thanks to those who shared their experiences and expertise at the Institute. Our

“practitioner presenters” were as diverse a group as our “practitioner participants,” including classroom teachers, DE and AEA consultants, building and district administrators, and university professors. It was truly heartening to be reminded during this institute of the sincere commitment our Iowa educators have to excellence and to meeting student needs.

The annual spring **Curriculum Academy**, May 9 and 10, is designed to meet the curriculum leadership needs of the many shapes of our Iowa schools’ teaching and learning leaders—those who teach parttime, administer buildings, coordinate district-wide efforts, superintend, and help from our intermediate agencies. For the second year, a “crucial conversations” day is planned in conjunction with the Academy itself for experienced curriculum leaders and academy completers networking and focusing on issues related to differentiation. Watch for registration details coming out in February.

Thursday, June 21 and Friday, June 22 we bring back the **Okoboji Effective Schools Conference** at Arrowhead Resort in Okoboji, Iowa. Traditionally, curriculum

leaders from across the state have gathered to learn and play together in this beautiful setting each June. We have invited participation from our South Dakota and Minnesota neighbors this year. Dr. Linda Franco will lead the learning sessions, assisted by a number of Midwest practitioners who have been particularly effective with differentiation for subgroup populations (TAG, special education and 504, ELL, low SES and in alternative settings). Watch for details yet this winter, and plan to join us (individually or with a team) in the beautiful Iowa lakes region for a top notch summer learning opportunity.

As an organization we are grounded in our mission to be: **“The source for developing instructional leadership — a responsive network of educational leaders that serves as the first choice for those who influence instructional policy and practices in Iowa.”**

We are committed to **excellence**, and to our belief in being **responsive** to others, **proactive** leading others, **collaborative** seeking others and **professional**, acting with integrity.