

## *From the President*

~ by Kristine Condon

This is the year of changing shapes for Iowa ASCD.

- 1) Our strategic plan and operating procedures have been updated.
- 2) We have a new executive director.
- 3) Major annual initiatives are tied to a single theme: Differentiation of Instruction: By Practitioners, For Practitioners.

We are honored to have our own Dick Hanzelka as president of ASCD international this year. Dr. Richard Hanzelka, retired instructional services administrator from AEA #9, has just completed several years as paid executive director of Iowa ASCD. So, we have a friend in high places and easy access to the working of ASCD international. This makes us both proud and lucky. We are most thankful for Dick's sincere service to our state ASCD affiliate organization.

Thus we are trying out a volunteer, rather than paid, executive director shape with the brilliant and efficient Dr. Kathryn Schladweiler, Director of Instructional Programs for Mason City schools, who has served in a number of leadership roles for our Iowa ASCD state affiliate. She is an old and dear friend and more than a new president of this organization could ask for in a leadership partner.

In addition to Kathy, the 15 members of Iowa ASCD Board of Directors, elected by our membership (which, by the way, numbers nearly 500 Iowa educators) are a great and lively crew. All 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.

We have developed a single Fall Institute this year rather than a series around the state. It will be at centrally-located Drake University, where we will be hosted by Iowa ASCD president-elect, Dr. David Darnell, retired Mason City Superintendent, now chair of administration preparation at Drake's School of Education. This Fall Institute focuses on the WHAT and WHY of differentiation. Keynoting will be Dr. Cynthia Knight, Iowa Department of Education consultant for Instructional Accommodations and Interventions. Truly Iowa's own expert in this field, Cynthia is a dynamic speaker on differentiation because it is in her heart! Accompanying her talk is a full day of successful practitioners from around the state--a marvelous collection of Iowa's best educators.

With our School Administrators of Iowa (SAI) partners, we are bringing back the Okoboji Effective Schools conference in June 2007. Traditionally, teachers and administrators from across the state gathered to learn and play together in this beautiful setting each June. Next summer an internationally known presenter and expert in differentiation, Dr. Linda Franco, will lead the learning sessions, assisted by a number of

practitioners from across Iowa 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 and plan to return to the Iowa lakes region for a top notch summer learning opportunity.