

QED NEWS

In this issue

Vol. XI, No. 1

Back-to-School Edition

A Message From the Chair
 Quality Quietly Advances in Education2
 News and Events
 A quick update of quality news in education2
 "Using Data in the Classroom"
 by Ron Fitzgerald3
 "Quality Assessments of Curriculums, Students, and Teachers"
 by Jorge Luis Romeu.....6
 "An Update on How ASQ Sections Can Help Further the
 Quality Efforts in Their Local Schools"
 by Cindy Veenstra7
 "Sharing the Journey of Quality in Education: One Blogger's
 Experience"
 by Jay Marino8
 "Rational Thinking Tools for Education Leaders"
 by Rick Fonte8
 "Report From the National Academy of Sciences on the
 K-12 School Systems"
 by Cindy Veenstra10
 "A Review of the Academic Audit"
 by Becky Starnes11
 ASQ and QLD Learning Offer SMART Data Retreat
 Workshop.....12
 Good Reads12
 Using the Education Division Discussion Board.....13
 Abstract: Integrity in Education, Part II
 by Dennis AuBuchon13

Mission Statement

To facilitate the identification, communication, and promotion of the use of quality principles, concepts, and technologies for continuous improvement in all aspects of education.

relative to NCLB, contact Education Division board member Dr. Craig Johnson at cjohnson@lsi.fsu.edu.

7. The Baldrige in Education process has proved to be a highly successful approach to improvement in student academic performance in school systems. Consider sponsoring a local workshop on Baldrige in Education for local educators. As a resource, consult the Baldrige in Education Network (free) at the ASQ Web site. Contact any ASQ Education Division board member for advice about Baldrige in Education.

For more ideas, visit the ASQ Sections & Local Education area on <http://www.asq.org/edu>.

Sharing the Journey of Quality in Education: One Blogger's Experience

by Jay Marino



With the onset of No Child Left Behind, schools have been particularly interested in the concept of quality in education. Educational institutions around the world have embraced the quality movement in efforts to increase academic achievement for all students. Critics of the quality movement in education ask, How can a “business concept” that focuses on customers and data impact the educational system? Can a focus on quality really help the bottom line in education? Educators now more than ever are taking a closer look at quality initiatives such as Koalaty Kid, the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence, Six Sigma, Lean, and others.

Last month, the American Society for Quality (ASQ) launched its first ever interactive blog for practitioners around the country to share their experiences with quality. Short for Weblog, a blog is a writer's online journal. Entries may be general or on a specific issue or topic. There is one content owner—referred to as a blogger—who posts entries and responds to reader comments. Blogs encourage dialogue around a particular topic while providing an outlet for information and resource sharing. While bloggers share their thoughts and experiences online, educators have opportunities to comment, question, and add to the discussion.

In my experience as a first-time blogger in this venture, much of the content posted online has been related to our journey of continuous improvement in the Cedar Rapids Community School District. As a Baldrige based district, our efforts have been focused on alignment and deployment of continuous improvement processes and tools. Thus far, blog entries have included topics such as: Goal Setting; Aligning Outcomes and Measures; Classroom Mission Statements; Continuous Improvement in the Classroom; a Balanced Scorecard; Measuring Progress; and Focusing on the “Critical Few.”

ASQ's educational blog will encourage discussion around the topic of quality in education. It is hoped that educational professionals will interact with this blog to share resources, discussions, and insights that will help other educators find success along the road to continuous improvement. ASQ's blogs can be accessed at <http://www.asq.org/blog/>.

Jay Marino serves as the associate superintendent for Organizational Effectiveness and Accountability in the Cedar Rapids Community School District. He can be contacted via e-mail: jmarino@cr.k12.ia.us or via the Internet: <http://www.jmarino.ws>.

Rational Thinking Tools for Education Leadership

by Rick Fonte,
Tregoe Education Forum

Never before has the need for effective leadership in education been more evident. Today's schools are vastly different from schools of just 10 to 20 years ago. Education leaders today must have knowledge and skills for effectively dealing with the issues of accountability, curriculum, instruction, policy, staff development, evaluation, community relations, organizational management, and more—and be able to lead their people in continuously improving each of these elements. Continuous improvement is not just an option; it is essential. Leaders need to function effectively in this new environment with tools that produce a shared vision and commitment to improving student achievement.

(cont. on p. 9)