

Association for Educational Communications & Technology

TECHtrends

Linking Research and Practice to Improve Learning

March/April 2006

Vol. 50.2

Systemic Change for Education & Training

Donal Little, Al Mizell, Trena M. Paulus, James A. Pershing, John R. Savery, Krista D. Simons, Rosemary Talab, Walt Wager, Lisa C. Yamagata-Lynch

Editorial material published herein is the property of AECT unless otherwise noted. Opinions expressed in *TechTrends* do not necessarily reflect the official position of AECT. All artwork © Ned Shaw except where noted.

Permissions: Copyrighted material from *TechTrends* may be reproduced for noncommercial purposes provided full credit acknowledgement and a copyright notice appear on the reproduction. Other requests for reprinting should be addressed to AECT Permissions.

Trademark Notice: Product and corporate names may be trademarks or registered trademarks and are used only for explanation and to the owner's benefit, without intent to infringe.

Layout and Editorial Office: Instructional Systems Technology, 201 N. Rose Avenue, Education 2276, Bloomington, Indiana 47405. Phone 812-856-8467. For advertising rates and deadlines, contact Ned Shaw at the AECT offices, 812-335-7675.

Subscription information: *TechTrends* is published six times per year by Springer Science+Business Media, Inc. (Springer), Volume 50 (6 issues) will be published in 2006.

ISSN: 8756-3894 (print version)

Subscription Rates, Orders, Inquiries: Please contact our Customer Service department for the latest rates and information:

The Americas (North, South, Central America, and the Caribbean):

MAIL: Journals Customer Service

P.O. Box 2485

Secaucus, NJ 07096, USA

TEL: 800-777-4643; 212-460-1500

(outside North America)

FAX: 201-348-4505

E-MAIL: journals-ny@springer-sbm.com

Outside of the Americas:

MAIL: Journals Customer Service

Springer Distribution Center (SDC)

Haberstr. 7

69126 Heidelberg, GERMANY

TEL: 49-6221-345-4303

FAX: 49-6221-345-4229

E-MAIL: sdc-journals@springer-sbm.com

Change of Address: Allow six weeks for all changes to become effective. All communications should include both old and new addresses (with zip codes) and should be accompanied by a mailing label from a recent issue.

Back Volumes: Prices for back volumes are available on request.

Microform Editions: Available from:

University Microfilms International, 300 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106, USA

SpringerAlerts Service: The SpringerAlert service is an innovative, free-of-charge service that notifies users via e-mail whenever new SpringerLink articles and journals become available, and automatically sends the table of contents and direct links to the abstracts of a new issue of a journal in SpringerLink. Register for the SpringerAlert service at <http://www.springerlink.com/alerting>

Periodicals postage paid at New York, New York and additional mailing offices. Send address changes to Springer, 233 Spring Street, New York, NY 10013, USA.

Guest Editor's Notes

Charles Reigeluth

Introduction to the Special Issue on Systems Thinking and Systemic Change for Education and Training

The purpose of this special issue on systems thinking and systemic change is to be tailored to AECT members' needs and interests. Sections 1 and 7 are particularly target toward this purpose. Also, we are trying a novel format to serve this purpose. The intent is to introduce many diverse ideas and lines of work through short (one page or less) articles we call "blurbs." The idea is to provide enough information for you to decide if you are interested, and then provide links or references where you can find more information.

The systemic change team at Indiana University – which includes Judy Bardonner, Omer Delialioglu, Fang Fang, Pam Green, Nichole Harlin, Pil Kang, Sunnie Lee, Emmanuel Okafor, Daniel Pascoe, Sari Pascoe, Charles Reigeluth, Kurt Richter and Bill Watson – brainstormed the seven sections and input on the concept was sought from all members of the Division for Systemic Change. Also, an invitation was sent to all members of the division to contribute to this special issue.

Section 1 addresses how systems thinking can help AECT members in their work, and how they can contribute to systemic change in whatever their context area may be. There is a blurb for each division, authored by the president of the division, as well as a blurb for the Association as a whole, authored by its president.

Section 2 addresses the need for systemic change, followed by foundational concepts and theories: the learner-centered paradigm of instruction, systems theory, systems thinking, systemic change and professional ethics.

Section 3 discusses the influences of suprasystems and their policies on systemic change. A blurb on general influences of suprasystems in all context areas is followed by blurbs devoted to the public education sector, including federal policies, state policies, NCLB and charter school legislation. There is also a blurb on influences of suprasystems in an Asian country with a more centralized educational system.

Section 4 describes actual experiences in systemic change in public education (school-level, district-level and state-level efforts), corporate training and an international context (Eastern Europe).

Section 5 introduces a variety of approaches to the process of systemic change in public school systems and corporations.

Section 6 describes several "new systems" that have emerged from systemic change efforts in public education, teacher education and corporate training. It also presents a general vision of an information-age educational system.

Finally, Section 7 addresses what AECT members can do with the ideas presented in this special issue. These suggestions are organized by kinds of work that people in AECT do.

We hope you find systems thinking and systemic change exciting and useful to your everyday work. Please let me know what you think of both the content and format of this special issue!

Charles Reigeluth, Guest Editor
reigelut@indiana.edu

