

FROM THE EDITOR

Magnificent Magna

In 1995, *American School Board Journal* launched a program to recognize school boards and districts that create innovative projects to improve student learning. On Page 28 and in the supplement that appears with this issue, we recognize the winners of the 13th annual Magna Awards.

Sponsored with the generous support of Sodexo School Services, the Magna Awards provide deserved recognition to the winning districts and their boards, which are selected from three enrollment categories. This supplement would not be possible without the hard work of magazine coordinator Margaret Suslick, who enters and tracks the entries in what is proving to be a yearlong project. Thanks also to our judges, led by the venerable Harold Fisher (who has led the panel for all 13 years); our writer, Cecile Holmes; and our production team of Carrie Carroll and Donna Ernst.

For you, the reader, the winning entries are a gold mine of replicable programs that you can use in your district.

Readers consistently say they want us to provide best practices in our magazine, so we have tweaked the content and design of our supplement to showcase how you can make the winning programs your own. We also are planning to feature winning districts in our “Learn More” section each month.

Another change we are making is in the Magna applications process. Starting this year, all applications will be

received online at www.asbj.com/magna. We hope this will make things easier for you to enter your award-winning program next year.

April is traditionally our largest issue, and there is plenty to read and enjoy this month. I would like to call your attention to two staff-written articles.

In “Moment of Truth,” Senior Editor Del Stover examines the contentious debate between Omaha Public Schools and its surrounding suburban districts over the thorny issue of integration. He also raises questions about how smaller urban school districts are confronting the issue of white flight, which can have devastating academic, economic, and social effects.

Another hard-hitting story is the third installment in our five-part series on “Children at Risk.” This month, Senior Editor Lawrence Hardy visits youth detention facilities in Florida and looks at how juvenile justice facilities are struggling to educate at-risk youth. He follows students who are battling to prevail against tremendous odds and looks at the “clash between the public safety function of juvenile justice and the educational efforts of the schools.”

We hope you enjoy these and other articles in the issue.

Until next month ...

Glenn Cook, Editor-in-Chief
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