CAPE Meets at Height of Education Debate

The Council for American Private Education successfully held its 4th Annual Legislative Conference, a yearly event bringing together private school educators from around the nation to discuss issues of concern with Members of Congress and the Administration. Held in Washington on March 15-16, it occurred during the busiest season for education legislation in the past several years.

"It is important to promote commons interests of CAPE member organizations on Capitol Hill and to heighten awareness and understanding about private education," said Joyce G. McCray, CAPE executive director. "And with the conference coinciding with the consideration of two major education initiatives in Congress, its timing couldn’t have been better."

The House of Representatives had been considering the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which did finally pass the week after the conference. Further, a joint conference had just started on the “Goals 2000” education reform bill as the CAPE meeting began. (See Legislative Update, page 3.) Participants were able to hear from a Senator serving on the conference committee with up-to-date information.

The conference began with a legislative briefing after an opening luncheon on Tuesday, March 15. Among legislative measures discussed were the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the “Goals 2000” education reform bill, and CAPE support for increased education funding. After an exchange of information about the three “position papers”, participants were asked to have small group discussions about political effectiveness and strengthening communication links within the private school community.

Later in the afternoon, the conference moved to the White House complex where the Clinton Administration prepared a briefing on education and health care reform. The education briefing included U.S. Education Secretary Richard Riley who updated the participants on the Administration’s agenda for reform and progress in educational achievement.

The next morning, conference participants heard from U.S. Senator James Jeffords (R-Vermont), ranking Republican on the Senate Subcommittee on Education, Arts and the Humanities, about education issues before the Senate. The breakfast meeting, held in the Hart Senate Office Building.

Rep. Dale Kildee (D-Michigan) speaks to legislative conference participants after being presented the 1994 CAPE Education Leadership Award.
Office Building, gave the Senator an opportunity to update CAPE on work in the “Goals 2000” conference which was in progress.

Afterwards, conferees made visits to Members on Capitol Hill to lobby on education issues followed by a debriefing lunch held back in the Hart building meeting room.

In conjunction with the conference, CAPE honored two individuals with its annual “CAPE Education Leadership Award”: Professor James S. Coleman and U.S. Representative Dale E. Kildee (D-Michigan). (See Outlook, March 1994).

For copies of the award citations, or the three legislative position papers from the conference, please write to CAPE at 1726 M Street, NW, Suite 1102, Washington, D.C. 20036.

New CAPE President & NDN Director

The spring meeting of the CAPE board held March 14-15 included the election of a new set of officers. Kay Edstene, executive director of the Friends Council on Education (FCE), was selected for a two-year term as president, succeeding Catherine T. McNamee, CSJ.

Edstene began her career in education as a history teacher, later serving in leadership positions at the George School (Newtown, PA) and Brooklyn Friends School (Brooklyn, NY). She has served as executive director of FCE since 1988.

McNamee, who finished her two years as CAPE president, serves as the president of the National Catholic Educational Association and will remain on the CAPE board. She was honored for her service at a small reception March 14 and presented an engraved Tiffany letter opener.

Two weeks later, Joyce G. McCray, CAPE executive director, announced the replacement of Charles Nunley, who retired as director of the Private School Facilitator Project in March. The Project is an effort undertaken by CAPE to significantly increase participation of private schools in the National Diffusion Network (NDN). Frank X. Delany, who served as the first CAPE Private School Facilitator, was selected from over 100 candidates which McCray described as “a tribute to CAPE and Charles’ fine work.”

Her March 30 memo to the CAPE board, State CAPE Network and various NDN committees went on to praise Delany for “his enthusiasm as an educator and his deep respect for the National Diffusion Network.” He will officially begin his full-time work in June, “but he will be able to work with us on a part-time basis immediately to ensure a smooth transition” according to McCray. Fay O'Brien has been promoted to Assistant Director of the Program and “will develop additional new projects to forward this important work.”

CAPE applauds the valuable tenure of McNamee and Nunley, and welcomes Edstene and Delany to their new opportunities for service.

NSF Meeting Held

by Francine J. Wald

On March 22 and 23, CAPE joined with several professional organizations and others with a strong interest in K-12 mathematics and science education at a workshop in Washington, DC. The purpose of the workshop was to help design dissemination plans for a new educational project that can have a major impact on mathematics and science education.

The conference was sponsored by the National Science Foundation’s Directorate for Education and Human Resources and the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Educational Research and Improvement. It was organized by Westet, an independent research organization.

U.S. researchers are participating in an international project to conduct case studies of educational innovations in science, mathematics and technology. Coordinated by the Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), eleven countries to date are embarking on qualitative looks at educational innovations within their borders: Austria, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, and the United States. It is believed that common themes underlying these innovations make it likely that much could be gained by the sharing of case study information by participating nations.

The workshop focused primarily on U.S. case studies, since these are significantly ahead of the research on other countries. Eight U.S. innovations, which had been selected for full case study investigation, were presented at the workshop. They were divided into Classroom-level Innovations and System-level Innovations as follows:

- Chemistry in the Community — California Science Reform
- Contemporary Precalculus — NCTM Standards
- Kids Network — Project 2061
- Voyage of the Mimi — Urban Math Collaboratives

Workshop attendees met with case study leaders to hear about research directions and very tentative, emerging claims. It was interesting that these presentations took place while researchers were in the midst of their studies, rather than after they had been completed. This gave participants an opportunity to indicate their organization’s relative interests within and among the studies and to help design reports and future dissemination vehicles, including roles that might be played by participants’ organizations.

CAPE appeared to be the only organization representing the interests of non-public education Researchers were interested in exploring the role that private education could
play in the development and dissemination of educational initiatives. One researcher had noted that, although private schools were not included in the early stages of the development of his program, when information was made available to the larger educational community, the response among the private schools was the most enthusiastic and welcoming. Several researchers and participants eagerly sought information about CAPE.

Francine J. Wald is the head of the science department at Friends Seminary in New York.

Legislative Update:

ESEA Passes House

After a month on the floor, the House passed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act reauthorization, H.R. 6, on March 24 by a vote of 289 to 128. The six-year reauthorization will provide $12.7 billion for support of elementary and secondary school programs including Chapters 1 and 2 (now Title I & II) as well as other programs such as the National Diffusion Network.

On the issues of importance to private schools — private school student eligibility and access to programs, retaining and revamping Chapter 2, and survival of NDN — the CAPE position was supported in the final version passed by the House. The “General Provisions” section on “equitable participation” was retained, as was the language to retool Chapter 2 and the NDN. In fact, the NDN funding authority was set at $25 million — $10 million higher than the current level.

The Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee has begun hearings on their version of ESEA, S. 1513, with expected action later this spring.

Goals 2000: Educate America Act

President Clinton was able to sign his first significant education legislation March 31. The “Goals 2000: Education America Act” was passed by Congress and enacted in time to secure $105 million in fiscal 1994 funds to begin the state education reform process that has failed to gain federal support for several years.

A joint conference committee made its report on H.R. 1804 March 21. This law, which codifies the National Education Goals and sets up systems to meet them, was passed by the House on March 23 by a vote of 306 to 121. The Senate approved it on March 26 by a 63-22 margin.

There were two primary areas of concern for CAPE. First, the bill included a provision prohibiting either “direct or indirect benefits” to flow to anything other than public schools.

It was CAPE’s position that such a statement complicates the long-standing principle of the “child benefit theory” which holds that all children should be afforded services whether enrolled in public, private or religiously-affiliated school. Such a prohibition contradicts, or at least severely complicates that principle.

On a better note, however, the language specifying that a private school representative serve on the state reform panels was retained in the final version of the bill. An earlier Senate amendment added this representation to state reform panels.

Legislative Conference 1995

SAVE THE DATE: The 1995 CAPE Legislative Conference will be held in Washington on March 14-15, with the Education Leadership Award banquet on March 14.

Corporate Giving Directory

The Foundation Center recently announced the publication of the new 3rd Edition of the National Directory of Corporate Giving, a source for current, accurate data on company-sponsored foundations and direct giving programs. The new edition of this fundraising research guide provides fundraisers with up-to-date facts on over 2,300 corporate philanthropies — institutions that each year award over $1 billion to nonprofit organizations across the U.S. and around the world.

Corporate grant requests, even more than other kinds of grant searches, demand extensive preparation. Because corporate philanthropic programs are closely tied to the business practices and focus of their parent companies, fundraisers need access to as much background information as possible when shaping their grant requests. Successful corporate grantseekers learn about the sponsoring company, its type of business, the locations of its subsidiaries, and much more.

Foundation Center researchers have spent the past year reading annual reports, sifting through newspaper articles, compiling grants lists, and consulting the grantmakers themselves. As a result, the new 3rd Edition of the National Directory provides, in a single convenient source, the most current information available on a powerful set of corporate foundations and direct giving programs. The volume includes:

• Crucial data on over 2,300 corporate funders;
• Up-to-date information on grantmaking priorities; and,
• Business interests of the sponsoring companies.

Indexes help fundraisers target potential funders by matching their grant needs to a corporate grantmaker’s preferred subject area and geographic location, the type of business practiced, the type of grant generally awarded, and the names of the officers, donors, and trustees. Fundraisers can also gain quick access to grant sources with an alphabetical index to corporations and their foundations and direct giving programs.

The National Directory provides access to updated information at the reasonable price of $195. Orders for the volume may be charged with VISA or Mastercard by calling toll-free, (800) 424-9836 (in New York, call 212-620-4230); by faxing requests (with return address and credit card number) to 212-807-3677; or by mailing orders to the Foundation Center, Dept. PR24, 79 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10003-3076.

Prepayment of $195 is required, plus $4.50 shipping and handling for the first copy ordered, and $1.50 for each additional copy. (Make checks payable to the Foundation Center.)
Corrie Wong (left) and Michael Eanes (right) discuss legislative issues after the briefing March 15.