UNIONS AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE
a seminar co-sponsored by
Albert Shanker Institute & New Economy Information Service

Tuesday, May 29, 2001
Washington Court Hotel
525 New Jersey Avenue, NW

In every advanced economy, union workers and their employers are up against new forms of competition. International trade, new technologies, the deregulation of major industries, and the privatization of public services—all are changing how workers do their jobs and how unions and employers relate to each other.

In response to these challenges, a growing number of unions—often in partnership with their employers—are creating, expanding, or modernizing training programs for workers. The goals: To help workers learn new skills, improve the quality of their products and services, increase their own employability, and enhance the competitiveness of the companies and other institutions where they work.

While there are vastly different economic conditions, political situations, and labor-management relationships in different countries, unions in every advanced economy can learn from each other’s efforts. That’s why the Albert Shanker Institute and the New Economy Information Service are co-sponsoring this seminar on “Workforce Development: An International Perspective” for union activists from North America and Western Europe.

8:30 am Coffee and Registration

9:00 am Welcome: Sandra Feldman, President, American Federation of Teachers; President, Albert Shanker Institute

9:15 am Session I: Training and Union Growth in a Global Economy

Chair: Penn Kemble, Consultant, New Economy Information Service; Senior Scholar, Freedom House

Dr. John Lloyd, National Education and Development Officer, Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, UK
Morton Bahr, President, Communication Workers of America
Dr. Dieter Eich, General Director, DGB Bildungswerk, Germany
Pasquale Inglisano, Confederazione Italiana Sindacati Lavoratori, Italy

10:00 am Discussion

11:15 am Break

11:30 am Session II: Training & Credentials: Key to New Professionals

Chair: Nancy Mills, Executive Director, Working for America Institute, AFL-CIO

Christiane Benner, Trade Union Officer, IT/Branch, IG Metall, Germany
Dr. Richard Hurd, Director, Cornell University Labor Studies Department
Aad Regeer, General Secretary, Federatie Nederlands Vakbeweging, Netherlands
Mark Smith, Deputy Executive Director, American Nurse Credentialing Center
Ed Sweeney, General Secretary, UNIFI (new UK finance union); Advisory Board, Trades Union Congress Partnership Institute, UK

12:15 am Discussion

1:00 pm Lunch

2:00 pm Session III: Roundtable--Applying Skills Development to Organizing

Chair: Paul Almeida, President, Department of Professional Employees, AFL-CIO

Jeff Grabelsky, Organizing Director, Building Trade Department, AFL-CIO
Poul Hansen, Specialarbejderforbundet i Danmark, Denmark
Philip Kugler, Organizing Director, American Federation of Teachers
Dr. Jeremy Waddington, Project Coordinator, European Trade Union Institute, Brussels

2:45 Discussion

3:30pm Session IV: Concluding Remarks/Observations of Participants

Chair: Sandra Feldman, President, American Federation of Teachers; President, Albert Shanker Institute

5:30 pm Reception

revised 5/9/01