

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

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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.

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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