

## EDITOR'S PAGE

With this issue the *Catalyst* completes 22 years of continuous publication. This is a remarkable record. The existence of the *Catalyst* spans almost exactly the existence of this Council of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). Over sixty years ago AACC began as the American Association of Junior Colleges (AAJC); about twenty years ago it became the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges (AACJC); during the past decade it flirted with becoming the American Association of Community, Junior and Technical Colleges (AACJTC), and now it has become the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). While our parent association has gone through a series of identity crises and name changes, we have remained constant with the uncomfortable but single title of National Council on Community Services and Continuing Education with one title for our journal, the *Catalyst*.

Is all this significant? Yes. While our parent association and the colleges it represents have been, and continue to be, in a process of mission development, we as professionals have been rather constant in our sense of mission. Our history shows we have experienced disagreement over the priorities of community service versus continuing education. Today we anguish over the proper balance of economic development activities in our mission. But always we have served as the outreach and community oriented arm of the college. As such we have been the pathfinders for the institution--the scouts ahead of the main body as some have referred to us. We have been the experimenters and the inventors. Our role has been constant--to experiment, to explore new approaches, to relate to community in old and new ways, to be a catalyst for change. Our parent institutions adapt some of our innovations, reject others. Through this process the shape and mission of the parent institutions and association change, but our role remains unchanged. That is significant. We are significant in the shaping of our institutions.

This issue of the *Catalyst* brings you an article by Frank Vivelo on strategic planning that addresses the management of our programs. His work has appeared in this journal before. Max Reichard is a new author with a new perspective. He looks at a mission similar to ours but in another country. His work is made more interesting because he studied Yugoslavia just before its tragic breakup and presents a special perspective on the role of adult education, on education's place in national policy, and on the current events in Yugoslavia. Current practice is represented by the Thomas and Johnson article. We conclude with an ERIC review on AIDS in the community college.

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