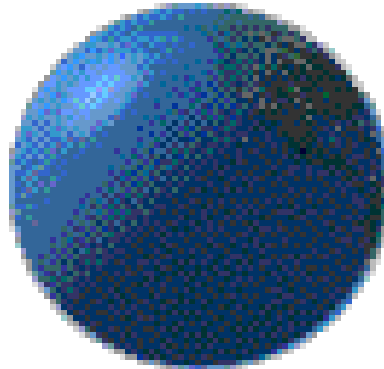


Interdependence Institute



Earth Links:
Toward Global Awareness & Understanding
March 19, 2004
Stephanie Roth and Joan Weber

Introduction

■ Group Activity

- What do you value most about your culture and what would you change if you could?

The View from the Classroom

- Culture and diversity
- Demographics
- Curriculum
- Materials
- Resources
- Current/future way to address cultural diversity

The Interdependence Institute

The context: The value of a liberal arts education in a diverse culture and a diverse world.

Scarsdale graduates will live in a society and a world where economics, politics, social issues, science, and ecological concerns increasingly transcend traditional borders. In this interdependent environment, education will be the most important tool and will determine the ability to understand, compete and contribute. Scarsdale has historically held that the best preparation for the world beyond school is a liberal arts education – one that develops the ability to think critically and to act on values attained through open inquiry in a climate of decency.

Charge to the Committee

- Rationale:
 - Ongoing domestic issues of race, economic and social class, and gender
 - Emerging global economy and globalization of cultures
 - Understanding what is close to home helps to understand what is farther away
- Long range plan identifies three tasks:
 - Coordinating programs that support an awareness of diverse communities
 - Reviewing current linkages with other communities
 - Developing a current events curriculum that addresses awareness of international issues

Charge to the Committee (continued)

- Specific work to be done:
 - Identify main knowledge, skills, dispositions we seek to impart to students
 - Determine what current efforts address that objective
 - Determine where those efforts require greater coordination or should be supplemented
 - Consider what new efforts might promote the district goal.
 - Identify resourcing needs and sources
 - Develop ways to assess how well students are learning what we seek to teach
 - Use assessment results to improve our work
- In addition, Scarsdale Schools must reflect on how we educate students about international events, and the challenges, opportunities and the dilemmas those events present.

Accomplishments

- Inventoried existing programs
- Developed current events program
- Researched student attitudes, involvement and awareness
- Consulted with experts
- Initiated a lecture series
- Reviewed theoretical models (Banks & Banks)
- Held a diversity job fair

Future Goals

- Expand membership (include parents)
- Catalog academic programs and extra-curricular activities
- Coordinate all efforts
- Explore exchange programs
- Revisit SEED program
- Reestablish mentor program at SHS and examine other suggestions to enhance the experience of students at SHS and at all levels
- Continue to diversify the staff
- Explore other initiatives and assess other needs

Lecture Series

- ***“Global Terrorists and Their War Against America”***
General John M. Keane
October 22, 2003
- ***“Reporting On the World – And Reporting To the World”***
Aaron Brown, CNN Correspondent
December 4, 2003
- ***“The Women of Afghanistan – And Women’s Rights in the World”***
Wazhmah Osman, Documentary Film Producer
January 14, 2004
- ***“The United States, The Two Koreas, and The Bomb”***
Dr. Kwan Ha Yim, Professor of Political Science Manhattanville College
March 24, 2004
- ***“TBD”***
Mary Carlin Yates, U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Ghana
May 4, 2004

Next Steps
