

## LEADERSHIP STATEMENT

As a result of reflecting on my accomplishments and activities in leadership in art education in my portfolio, my definition of leadership is the creating of conditions that cause a group of people to get done what they need to get done. How is this achieved? The following is a brief description of what I consider the most important elements of being a good leader:

- Be well organized and have clear, attainable goals for the group. Stay on top of all details throughout the process.
- Involve everyone in the group and help them feel ownership of the goals. Reinforce group members' good efforts often.
- Take on some of the group's tasks and set a good example for the group by completing one's own tasks well.
- Strive to be positive, courteous, and encouraging. Remember that enthusiasm is contagious.

As a result of my leadership involvement, I have learned the following:

- I am capable of more than I thought I was. When I began chairing the State Art Education Fall 2001 Conference, I thought that I might be "in over my head." But, instead of dwelling on my initial apprehension, I dove into the task with all the gumption I could muster and soon found that, yes indeed, I could lead a distinguished group of art educators in the planning and carrying out of a successful professional development conference. The result of this was that I would always remember my involvement with the Fall 2001 Conference as one of the most rewarding experiences of my entire life.
- Big achievements are accomplished through a series of small steps. The ensuring that all the little things are taken care of results in the big thing being done well.
- Persistence pays off. There were a few things connected with the Fall 2001 Conference that I thought would never be achieved. One of them was the securing of a \$1000 grant for our reception at the Art Museum from the State Education Association Council. Through a series of state personnel absences that were entirely out of my control, it took at least 20 phone calls (over the course of nearly a year) to the organization before my grant request was acted on and approved. Had I not been persistent the state art education association would have been out a considerable sum of money for our reception.
- Maintaining a sense of the big picture is important. As with the planning of all professional development events that involve a planning committee of 15 and eventually 250-300 participants, there are bound to be snags and things that need to be modified or changed. But if one can maintain a vision of what is essential to achieve the final goal, these modifications can be seen as a normal part of the process and not a cause for panic.

As a result of my leadership activities I don't think that I will change too many things about my personal leadership style. I feel that I have been a good leader. Further, this feeling has been reinforced by many people on the State Art Education Association Board, by those on particular committees, and by the State Art Education

Association general members. Perhaps the one thing I would try to do even better is my organization of whatever leadership materials I happen to be involved with. In the early stages of my leadership I relied on organizational models created by some of my predecessors. I now feel confident that I can create organizational models that are more suited to my own personal needs, but that would provide good models for those new to whatever process is being undertaken.

My new goals for leadership within the State Art Education Association are the mentoring of the current president, helping to recruit younger members to serve on the Board; and the aforementioned creating of organizational models (of various association activities) for others to use in the future.

The main area of professional development in the area of leadership that I need at this time is the continuing learning of new technical applications on the computer that would certainly help my work with a professional art education organization and in my own school district. One application that comes to mind is the use of Photoshop. While my involvement with the electronic portfolio group has given me a chance to become rudimentarily familiar with this software, the achieving of a higher level of competence would certainly enhance the leadership skills I bring to any art or art education endeavor.