



WFS Learning Section
Bulletin
Fall 2008

FUTUREtakes publishes the *WFS Learning Section Bulletin* by special arrangement with the World Future Society (WFS) Learning Section Steering Team. Issues of the *WFS Learning Section Bulletin* typically include foresight education exercises, an educator spotlight column, and synopses of the annual WFS Education Summit.

Foresight
Education
Project

Nurture the Future!
***Partner with teachers in secondary,
college, and graduate programs around
the world.***

by Peter Bishop

Our Vision – *“To teach as much about the future as we teach about the past.”*

Why bother?

- Modern society is awash in a sea of change; therefore, anticipate a future starkly different from the past and unlike the present.
- People really DO try to influence the future – particularly, that of families, work spaces, community, and governance – with good intentions in mind
- Unfortunately, most are novices at best since formal education offers little preparation for "divining" the future.
- As such, each new graduating class is set adrift on this sea of change called the future with little more than "a wish on a wing!"

The challenge...

- The future hasn't happened yet, how can one teach it?
- The future is too complicated, how can anyone know it?
- Many educators themselves have no formal training about the future.
- State's curriculum standards rarely include "futures-related" content.

Teaching more about the future in all of education is the mission of the *Foresight Education Project!* We are partnering with teachers in secondary, college and graduate programs around the world to

– **Facilitate access to “Ready-to-GO!” instructional materials**

- Augment regular lessons with a tip, tool or strategy involving foresight education
- Develop foresight units and stand-alone courses within the regular school environment
- Promote "foresight" enhancing programs.

– **Facilitate access to Foresight Experts (educators and others)**

– **Serve as a link in the worldwide Foresight Community**

- Among teachers who teach/have taught foresight courses
- Among the graduate foresight programs located around the world
- With professional futurists in business, government and not-for-profit organizations

So, here is what you can do:

- If you have taught a foresight module, unit or course, send your material (at least one) to foresighteducation@uh.edu . We will post your material and invite you to be a contributor to this site. After that, you can add as much material as you like.
- If you are interested in teaching a foresight course, you may use the material on this site for your classes.
- And anyone can subscribe to the Foresight Education listserve by sending an email to LISTSERV@LISTSERV.UH.EDU with the word *subscribe foresighteducation* in the body of the message.

The ***Foresight Education Project*** proudly introduces "Our Partners"

- **Futures Studies** (tech.uh.edu/Programs/Futures_Studies) University of Houston's graduate program; and the student-alumni site (www.houstonfutures.org) for the program
- **Futures Learning Section, World Future Society** (www.wfs.org/futureslearning), (*Futurist Update* available free at www.wfs.org/futuristupdate.htm)
- **Online Centre for Pedagogical Research, World Futures Studies Federation** (teachingcommons.cdl.edu/wfsf/index.html)
- **FUTUREtakes** (www.futuretakes.org), a free online cross-cultural magazine and educational resource
- **Institute for the Future** (www.aacc.edu/future), Anne Arundel Community College
- **Futures Education and Research Network, Acceleration Studies Foundation** (shapingtomorrowmain.ning.com/group/fsdn)
- **Foresight International** (www.foresightinternational.com/au/catalogue), Brisbane, Australia
- **Texas Future Problem Solving Program**, (www.fpspi.org)
- **Future Problem Solving International** (www.fpspi.org)
- **Global Millennium Prize, Millennium Project** (www.globalmillenniumprize.org)
- **Proteus, U.S. Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the Center for Strategic Leadership at the U.S. Army War College** (www.carlisle.army.mil/proteus),

- **TechCast** (www.techcast.org), a virtual think tank on technology developments.