



WFS Learning Section
Bulletin
Spring-Summer 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.

WFS Learning Section – Next Steps

by Steve Steele, Peter Bishop, John Smart, and Dave Stein

At the recent World Future Society Education Summit, in which more than 60 educators participated, interest and enthusiasm exceeded expectations. The summit represents the latest accomplishment of the WFS Learning Section, which during the past year arranged a link on the World Future Society home page (<http://www.wfs.org/futureslearning>), established a listserv and an interactive Learning Section signup page, and launched this *Learning Section Bulletin*.

Based on the level of interest at the Education Summit (which will be summarized in the next issue of the *Learning Section Bulletin*) – and the feedback from four students enrolled in online learning programs – the Steering Team is poised to proceed with new projects focused on promoting and supporting futures education programs worldwide. One general effort will be to support existing educators through networking, module sharing and review, telephone consulting on course materials and curricula, and possible development of additional course materials (for example, scenarios, frameworks, learning tools, modules, and other course materials). A parallel initiative will be to help develop a new cadre of educators in future studies, and an adjunct goal is to monitor trends, developments, and possible wild cards that can impact education and learning, particularly future studies. Also envisioned is a one-stop portal for resources and for professional and social networking that will be available to interested educators, futurists, and educator associations. As a concurrent action, we are exploring possibilities for regional activities that will provide face-to-face interaction.

Additional projects under consideration include

- A “Futurepedia” – similar to Wikipedia but more receptive to material on “what might happen” as opposed to the more customary “what has happened”
- Cooperative activities with educators’ associations
- Job-postings in futures studies
- Exchange of course materials such as curricula, modules, learning tools, and scenarios, and development of new course materials
- Educators’ schwags such as relevant posters
- Development of a certification process

All activities of the WFS Learning Section will be with the international community of educators and students in mind. Sign up for the Learning Section at <http://ola4.aacc.edu/soc/wfslearningteams07/> To provide limited funds to support some of these activities, nominal section dues are under consideration, and the Steering Team would be most grateful for your thoughts on this.

Several resources are already being leveraged synergistically in pursuit of the Learning Section's goals – specifically, the *Future Generations Forum* and the *Education Forum* (both available on the WFS Learning Section home page), *FuturePortal*, published by the Institute for the Future at Anne Arundel Community College (*IF@AACC*, <http://www.aacc.edu/future>), the Global Futures Network (<http://www.futuresnetwork.org>), the Foresight Education and Research Network (FERN), and *FUTUREtakes*. We welcome additional resources and participation.

Educators and Students, Get on Board!

To implement our ambitious plans and help grow the next generation of futurists, we need leaders and other participants, and we invite you to join us. To become involved or to obtain further information, contact a member of the Steering Team:

- Peter Bishop, pbishop@uh.edu
- Steve Steele, sfsteele@aacc.edu
- John Smart, johnsmart@accelerating.org
- Dave Stein, editorinchief@futuretakes.org