

Dialogue Education at Work
July 25, 2003

That's the title of the new Jossey Bass book, to be published on October 6th. I had the joy of doing a final editing of the typeset pages this week. I sent a note to each of the 31 authors saying: *Damn! It's good!*

This was the first time I had read the book from cover to cover. The deep connection between chapters (each written by a separate person or team) is really amazing. These links look like there was a fine, skilled hand involved in the set up of the chapters. It wasn't mine!

There are three sections: University Education, Public and Not for Profit Education, and International Education. The connections run across these sections. Themes arise very clearly: learners need a firm, sure model which they can adjust to their context as they develop necessary skills and maturity with the model; learners need support and follow up after a learning session; working with the top level administrators of an organization is necessary if organizational change is desired; the Four I's (inductive work, input, implementation, integration) can be re-named with impunity, and have been in a few different contexts; dialogue education does not affect design or teaching skills only: the principles are as one author wrote *contagious*. They reach into the life of a person and or an organization.

This book was not intended to be in praise of a particular approach to adult learning. However, the joy in these pages is a constant theme – *exhilaration* is the word one author used to describe the affect around learning. A favorite image of mine is that of the welfare mothers in a Vermont swimming pool, “bobbing about in the buoyancy of shared accomplishments”.

I am honored to be a part of this team of revolutionaries – even from my *back porch*.