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### From the Desk of Tim Mack, President, World Future Society



WFS has been working directly with a range of post-secondary education institutions around the world, including meetings with university departments in economics, political science, business, development and humanities in Mexico, Taiwan, and Brazil. In addition WFS has participated in university strategic planning programs on federal foresight and knowledge management in the United States. We are working with community colleges, including the American Association of Community Colleges, to develop new opportunities in that arena, as well as with high schools who have exhibited an interest in the future (such as the High School of the Future in Philadelphia, partially funded by Microsoft).

One of the leading WFS goals in 2006 is to revitalize the Education Section, and accordingly the education efforts of the Society, in order to provide a wider range of tools, resources and opportunities to its membership. We made a start in 2005, undertaking a workbook and companion CD for Ed Cornish's *Futuring* book and reinitiating the Prep 21 survey of futures programming around the world. And the response to these efforts was enthusiastic. We held two education planning meetings in Chicago, which has led to a number of new and innovative session proposals for the Toronto conference. Finally, our education partnerships with Global School Networks and the Ten-Cube program are moving forward, with WFS judging a second annual CyberFair Web competition about the Future involving secondary school students around the world.

A parallel goal is to leverage the articles and program synopses published in **FUTUREtakes**, together with the appended "discussion points" that are designed as educational resources for both secondary and post-secondary students and teachers. These articles and synopses will encourage original thinking on future-related matters, and the discussion points are excellent launch pads for student commentary, articles, and research projects. This in-house resource is available now, and it provides opportunities for students to write and perhaps even publish and for WFS chapters to work with local schools, colleges, and universities. Let's all give some thought to how to best utilize it and who to make aware of this valuable resource!

The Society's goals for 2006 include:

- Development of Tools for Foresight Education [High School, College and Mid Career Levels]
- A Young Futurists Program [to draw new members in their 20s and 30s into responsible volunteer positions]
- Futures Clubs for High Schools [to build a format for foresight minded teachers and student members]
- Collegiate Chapters [Ditto, plus providing a base for Young Futurists]
- Annual Education Section Meeting [to spread the membership beyond the usual suspects]
- Self-Reporting Prep 21 Survey [to capture what we are missing]
- Web site sign up for membership [to make it more self selecting]
- Newsletter written by Education Section members (initially as part of *Future Times*)
- Special Educators Web page [also full of items contributed by members]
- Surveys - Youth and their Future [Understand Teachers Needs for Teaching the Future]
- Blogger or Web News Service - [Resource for Upload and Download (i.e., Interactive)]

As may be evident, this level of effort will need much more than the resources of the WFS staff alone to make it all successful. There will need to be a Steering Committee for the Education Section who will guide policy and project implementation and much more volunteer participation concerning identification of areas of need, project oversight and sharing success stories from around the world. Accordingly, I encourage all of you with an interest in education to join up in developing a robust effort within the Society to make a difference for Futures Education and the Future of Education in 2006! Any of you interested in being a part of this effort, please contact me at [tmack@wfs.org](mailto:tmack@wfs.org) or 301-656-8274. In addition, you can sign up for the Education Newsletter on the WFS Web site at [www.wfs.org](http://www.wfs.org), and we are constantly looking for new material, so send me your articles!