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Editor's Corner - Support and Growth Revisited

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Support and Growth Revisited

The editorial in the Autumn 1987 issue of ISTJ was entitled "Support and Growth." Growth for ISTJ was deemed essential. Support was lacking in some essential aspects. As editor, I had decided it was time to step aside so that the Academy could find the support and provide the opportunity for growth. Since that editorial was written, support has been found and I am pleased to be able to accept reappointment as ISTJ editor. Revisiting the topic of support and growth now seems important.

In order to accomplish the projected goals of ISTJ, three needs must be met: supported time for the editor, financial support of a student assistant and an efficient means for the production of the journal. Released time for the editor has now been provided through the science department of Price Laboratory School at the University of Northern Iowa, money for the support of a student assistant has been provided by the University of Northern Iowa and the efficiency of production will be greatly enhanced by the new computer and printer which will soon arrive. Recognition is due to those who have played key roles in providing this support. Dr. Timothy Cooney, chair of the Price Laboratory School science department has done much to make released time a reality. University of Northern Iowa Provost Dr. James Martin has recognized the merit of supporting ISTJ and is providing funds for a university student assistant. The Science Teaching Section of the Academy has provided the funds to purchase a computer and a printer for the journal. The section has done so in the hope that, as the financial condition of the Academy improves, the Academy, through its own finances, can again more completely support the needs of ISTJ.

Even through this period of uncertainty, the writers for the journal have continued their support, and the flow of materials is being reestablished. The reestablishment of the editorial staff is taking place with the renewed commitment of some previous assistant editors and appointments to fill vacancies.

The overarching goal of ISTJ is the improvement of science teaching and the stimulation of interest in scientific studies. This goal directs ISTJ to synthesize rather than to fragment the messages of science education. Both in and outside of schools, ISTJ is to serve science teachers with students ranging from pre-primary grades through post-graduate school.

The Journal can be expected to grow in many ways. If it is to serve all its constituents, it can be expected to grow in size and, before long, in frequency of publication. It must continue to grow in quality. More of the best of Iowa's science writers will be providing manuscripts and excellent writers from outside of Iowa will be sharing ideas with us. A

most important goal of the journal staff is to assist Iowa science teachers to put their best ideas in print so that their creativity is not lost but can aid students other than their own. ISTJ is to exhibit diversity: diversity in content, diversity in grade level coverage and diversity in type of article. We will solicit articles which review content topics, materials and teaching techniques which describe classroom and laboratory teaching activities and those which describe pertinent research. ISTJ will serve to report functions of the ISTS and maintain the Science Calendar. New departments such as the "Astronomy Bulletin" may be anticipated.

A vehicle for increased growth in communication has already been set in motion. ISTJ will be a part of PSI-net which is a national computer network devoted to science education. Some of the immediate benefits of PSI-net are increased availability of information and electronic communication with editors, referees and writers.

With these goals in mind, I look forward to serving as the editor of a growing journal and look for the continuing support of the academic community, the Academy and the science teachers, readers, writers and researchers of Iowa.

--C.W.B.

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