



2004

Annual Report



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REFLECTIONS ON 2004 AND 2005

“Change and Transition” are watchwords common to the lexicon of almost any organization today, and our experience in 2004 proves that these concepts apply to Leading EDGE as well.

In recent years, the foundation of our work and business income has been anchored in our staff development efforts to introduce the EBD classroom model to K-12 educators in NY State and in the United Kingdom. Seventy percent (70%) of our business in the past year came from work with these clients. Late in 2004, this footing shifted beneath us as our work with the fine educators of the UK came to an end.

In response, we have set the goal for 2005 of diversifying the audience for our work by looking beyond the traditional K-12 clients we've served in the past. Much to our delight we are finding that our mission of designing and facilitating personal and organizational growth experiences through experiential, collaborative problem-solving can be fulfilled in many places in addition to the K-12 classroom. Our recent contacts with college, corporate, non-profit, and wilderness education clients have shown us that there is a market in these areas for the substantial repertoire of skill and expertise Leading EDGE has to offer. We are encouraged by the very positive response we are getting from our ventures into these new areas of opportunity.

In 2004, Leading EDGE facilitated more than twenty different types of learning experiences in over seventy events ranging from a half-day to five days for more than forty organizations primarily in New York State and the United Kingdom. Two highlights of the year included renewed contact with Antioch New England Graduate School's Education By Design program and our participation in the Institute for Learner Centered Education's Constructivist Conference.

With Antioch, we hope to rebuild our relationship with the institution and forge closer ties with the new personnel who lead the EBD program there.

At the Constructivist Conference, we sought to address some of our own business challenges and also showcase the services of Leading EDGE as we worked with other conference participants.

The Constructivist Conference is a very unique professional opportunity for all those who attend. Each year since 1995, over 30 teams of educators (more than 200 people) from around the nation have come together to work on tasks specific to their needs. The entire conference is built around a constructivist philosophy and the Institute provides facilitators to assist the teams in accomplishing their task. Jack, who has been involved with the conference since 2002, and Bruce volunteered to facilitate different teams. Bruce facilitated a team of administrators from Hudson Falls, NY in their efforts to reorganize the structure of their administrative personnel and committees to more closely align with the goals of their school. Jack, on the other hand, facilitated a Leading EDGE team in the task of improving the

capacity of Leading EDGE to market our services in New York State. It was a very rewarding experience for both of us and we look forward to attending this exciting event again in 2005. (for more information on this conference visit: <http://www.learnercentered.org/conferences/info.htm>)

As we look forward to 2005, we have set the following goals:

- To increase our domestic client base in all of our service areas
- To increase our non-education events
- To develop our repertoire of skill and experience in facilitating organizational change
- To find ways to include our personnel in non-K-12 opportunities

In the coming year we look forward to working with New York School groups including; Beekmantown Central School, ONC BOCES, The Adirondack Teacher Center, Clinton Central School, Cobleskill Central School, and the Schoharie BOCES among others.

We eagerly anticipate the release of the 2nd edition of our text, *The Backcountry Classroom: Lessons, Activities and Techniques for Teaching in the Wilderness* published by Globe Pequot Press. The reaction to the workshops we have done with the Wilderness Education Association, American Camping Association, and the Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education featuring material from this book has been overwhelmingly positive. We look forward to working with these organizations again in 2005.

We will once again be collaborating with Holmes & Associates of Saranac Lake, NY in 2005. This year the focus of attention will be the development of a recreation study plan for the Lake George Park Commission. We will be designing and facilitating a series of public meetings on this controversial regional issue.

One of the projects we look anticipate is assisting the people at the International Paper Mill in Ticonderoga, NY in problem solving some group dynamic issues. We will be facilitating a series of meetings designed to identify specific issues and behaviors that are causing friction. Once these issues are addressed, we will help them create a rubric to assess and document their progress in addressing these issues in the future.

We are proud of our past and look forward to the coming year with great excitement. Feedback from our clients reinforces our belief that we are continuing to be successful in fulfilling our vision. In many small but substantive ways, we are enhancing our reputation as an organization that knows how to help clients address their issues successfully using healthy and effective collaborative, experiential, problem-solving processes.

Bruce F. Bonney

Jack Dmy

2004 Leading EDGE Clients

New York

Adirondack Forest Preserve Education Program	Madison-Oneida BOCES
Adirondack Curriculum Project	Malone Middle School - Math Department
Adirondack Rural Health Network	Malone Middle School - ELA Department
Antioch New England Graduate School	Norwich YMCA
Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education	Parent to Parent of NYS
Camp Woodsmoke	Paul Smith's College
Clinton Central School	Saranac Lake Red Carpet Committee
Cobleskill Middle School	Schoharie VOTEC
Cobleskill-Richmondville Central School	Stillwater High School
Colgate University	Wildlife Conservation Society-Adirondack Communities and Conservation Program
Franklin Essex Hamilton BOCES	Windham Ashland Jewett Central School
Gilboa Central School	Wilderness Education Association
Harrietstown Housing Authority	
Holmes & Associates	
Institute for Learner Centered Education	

United Kingdom

In 2004 Leading EDGE worked with schools and colleges in the following locations:

Barrow-in-Furness, England	Garstang, England
Belgrave, England	Isle of Jersey
Bradford, England	Oban, Scotland
Bristol, England	Perth, Scotland
Clacton, England	Rhondda, Wales
Cwmbran, Wales	Skelmersdale, England
Edinburgh, Scotland	West Lothian, Scotland
Furness College, England	

Other

Columbus Ohio Schools, Columbus, OH
International Conference of Outdoor Recreation Educators, Nashville, TN
Wilderness Education Association, Bloomington, IN
YMCA Camp Menogyn, Grand Marais, MN

2004 Leading EDGE Events

Administrative Leadership
 Building a Safe Classroom Community
 Developing Adirondack Learning Challenges
 Education By Design - Level I - Institute
 Education By Design - Level II - Institute
 Education By Design - Level III - Institute
 Facilitation - How Can We Improve Our Test Scores?
 Facilitation - How Can We Work More Effectively Together?
 Facilitation - Strategic Planning for Adirondack Forest Preserve Education
 Facilitation - Strategic Planning for Regional Health Care

Facilitation - Strategic Planning for Regional Housing
 Facilitation – Superintendents’ Meeting
 Facilitation - What are the Health Issue Priorities?
 Facilitation - What Do We Want for Our Community?
 Instructor Training Clinic
 Map & Compass for Camp Counselors
 Peer Buddy Training
 Teaching and Learning Styles
 What is Education By Design?
 Wilderness Leadership & Decision Making
 Working & Learning Together - Building our Capacity for Collaborative Problem Solving

	Location						Type			
	New York		United Kingdom		Other		Education		Other	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
January-04	1	2.7%	7	21.9%	0	0.0%	8	15.7%	0	0.0%
February-04	1	2.7%	7	21.9%	0	0.0%	8	15.7%	0	0.0%
March-04	3	8.1%	4	12.5%	0	0.0%	4	7.8%	3	15.0%
April-04	9	24.3%	1	3.1%	0	0.0%	2	3.9%	8	40.0%
May-04	0	0.0%	10	31.3%	0	0.0%	10	19.6%	0	0.0%
June-04	5	13.5%	0	0.0%	1	50.0%	2	3.9%	4	20.0%
July-04	1	2.7%	3	9.4%	0	0.0%	3	5.9%	1	5.0%
August-04	1	2.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	2.0%	0	0.0%
September-04	4	10.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	7.8%	0	0.0%
October-04	6	16.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	7.8%	2	10.0%
November-04	4	10.8%	0	0.0%	1	50.0%	4	7.8%	1	5.0%
December-04	2	5.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	2.0%	1	5.0%
Totals	37	52.1%	32	45.1%	2	2.8%	51	71.8%	20	28.2%