

# Preface and Acknowledgments

Showing 400 quotations on important schooling issues from 60 seminal and influential contemporary figures in educational theory and practice, this book provides insights that will prove valuable to everyone who helps make schools tick—from teachers, librarians, and curriculum specialists to administrators, board members, and even legislators. Education students, and their instructors, will find much of value here as well.

This smorgasbord serves up bite-size food for thought to educators hungry for intellectual stimulation during their all-too-short reflection time. And by providing important new educational perspectives and fresh takes on old issues, it hopefully will inspire you to track down full-length works and other contributions by the excerpted experts. To that end, educators looking for just the right persuasive, incisive, challenging, or inspirational quotations for their speeches, proposals, and presentations can quickly and easily find just what they're looking for by using the subject index at the beginning of the book. The index groups quotations under dozens of pertinent subject headings, placing right at your fingertips a wealth of material on topics ranging from collaboration and leadership to testing and vouchers. The author index enables readers to track down excerpts by any included author, from Roland Barth to Harry Wong.

I wish to thank the staff of Gonzaga University's Foley Center Library for allowing me to raid the education stacks, as

well as the fine writers whose works fill them. I also must thank my wife and family for providing encouragement and support.

Meanwhile, I extend my apologies to the great educational thinkers left out of this collection; omissions are unavoidable in such a tightly focused project, and no slights are intended. Even though some enduring educators have been left out, this collection strives to present a representative sampling of the foundational, contemporary, and popular educators of impact on the field.

This book was the brainchild of my editor at Corwin Press. When we met in 2003, he had for years been nursing the idea of a lively yet serious collection of quotations on the theory and practice of schooling restricted to top educational theorists, researchers, and leaders of the last century. He knew he'd met a kindred spirit when I described my disappointment with the education quote books typically found next to bookstore cash registers each fall—the ones featuring recycled, not-so-deep thoughts on school *daze* from such giants of pedagogy as Andy Rooney and Dave Barry. My dissatisfaction led me to edit *Teacher of the Year: More Than 400 Quotes of Insight, Inspiration, and Motivation from America's Greatest Teachers* (2002). Little did I dream my attempt to build a better educational quote book would one day lead to this wonderful new collection.

We hope you find the resulting treasury of educational wisdom enjoyable and, above all, useful in your work and intellectual life.