

EARTHWISE LEARNING SERIES

Inspiring a New Generation of Leadership for Global Social Innovation

FIVE STRATEGIC PRESSURE POINTS FOR 1991-1992

GLOBAL THINKTANKS: In order to 1) involve master curriculum writers in developing the curriculum for the proposed three one-month long intensives of the Earthwise Learning Series, and, 2) ensure broad intercultural input into the intensives, Global Think Tanks will be held in 1991-92. These will be financed through grants organized by ICA West in conjunction with other ICA structures. Each of the Think Tanks will be 15 days long and will involve approximately 12 people, at least 2 of which will be constant throughout all three ThinkTanks. It is envisioned that the Think Tanks will be held in Guatemala, Belgium, Malaysia and/or Denver. As a result of these Think Tanks, an initial draft of the entire three month Earthwise Learning Series will be available for use by faculties preparing for specific audiences. Consideration will be given to offering the newly drafted intensives directly following the Think Tanks as a means of initial testing and broadened participation.

EARTHWISE LEARNING COMMUNITIES: In order to get grassroots input into the Earthwise Learning Series through the ICA network, individuals and cores are being invited to participate in the continuing research required for developing the Earthwise Learning Series. The primary mode of their participation will involve choosing one of the 21 modules and then collecting and studying readings, videos and exercises of possible use in presenting the module. This information will be made available to the Earthwise coordination team in Phoenix and to the ThinkTank which is dealing with the intensive in which the module will occur. These groups will also conduct demonstrations of the initial four modules, and encourage diverse input to the curriculum. This work will produce two results: 1) considerable information will be made available to curriculum writing teams and 2) an increasing number of people will begin to participate in the emerging new perspective.

INTRODUCTORY MODULE TESTING: In order to test the four introductory modules which were designed at the Research assembly in Chicago in the summer of 1990, these modules will be conducted for a variety of audiences during 1991-92:

Making Sense of the World

Methods of Personal and Group Creativity

Myth and the Human Journey

A New Image of Learning

The responsibility for setting up and marketing the modules will rest with the Earthwise Learning Communities. They will receive the latest version of the curriculum in time to conduct the program and will be responsible for preparing a thorough evaluation of the event to be returned to ICA West. Also, it is suggested that 10% of the gross income of the program be sent to ICA West to cover development costs and module curriculum monitoring. As a result of this module testing strategy, a considerable body of experience will be gained with a diversity of audiences regarding the usefulness and effect of the four introductory modules of the Earthwise Learning Series. ICA in Chicago is considering hosting a summer session to train facilitators for these 4 modules.

NEW IMAGE OF LEARNING MODULE: In order to provide a strong theoretical and pedagogical foundation to all of the ELS, special attention will be given to developing the New Image of Learning Module during 1991. This will be done by offering the module to various audiences after holding a special Think Tank to put the curriculum in experimental form. The ICA Education Network will make the New Image of Learning Module its special focus for the coming year. This focus on the New Image of Learning Module will result in a polished and effective module by the end of 1991.

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS: In order to locate a series of organizations with which to conduct the Earthwise Learning Series in the years ahead, conversations will be held with prospective partner organizations to discover their willingness to work together with the ICA in conducting the ELS. These conversations will be initiated by members of the Earthwise Learning communities using materials distributed by ICA West. After receiving word of initial interest, further discussions will be held in consultation with ICA West. By the end of 1991, several long-term agreements are anticipated to have been secured with various institutions.