

MINNESOTA QUALITY TEACHING COALITION

Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs *** Minnesota Association of Charter Schools
Minnesota On-line Learning Alliance *** Minnesota Rural Education Association

Research on Interdisciplinary Approaches to Teaching and Learning

There is a long history of research supporting interdisciplinary approaches from the famous *Eight Year Study* to research done at the University of Minnesota, research on service learning, project based learning and experiential learning in general.

Several recent national reports on secondary schools call for major reform in the direction of the learner-centered approaches and interdisciplinary learning. See for example,

- *Preparing Schools and School Systems for the 21st-century* by AASA.
- *Organizing for Learning: toward the 21st-century* by NASSP.
- *Breaking Ranks: Changing an American Institution* by NASSP.
- *Turning Points 2000: Educating Adolescents in the 21st-century* by NASSP and NMSA.
- *Paths to Success for Middle Level Education in Minnesota* by Minnesota Department of Education.

Deborah Hartzler, "A Meta-Analysis of Studies Conducted on Integrated Curriculum Programs and Their Effects on Student Achievement," and unpublished doctoral dissertation, Indiana University 2000. *Dissertation Abstracts International, September, 2000*. Conclusion: "Students in integrated curricular programs consistently out-performed students in traditional classes on national standardized tests, on state-wide testing programs, and on program developed assessment. Integrated curriculum has been shown to be a viable alternative to traditional subject-centered programs without fear of student failure or declining standardized test scores."

William Wraga, "A Century of Interdisciplinary Curricula in American Schools" Reported in *Annual Review of Research for School Leaders*, 1996.

Gordon Vars, "The Effects of Interdisciplinary Curriculum and Instruction." Reported in *Annual Review of Research for School Leaders*, 1996.

Laura Van Zandt and Shari Albright, " The Implementation of Interdisciplinary Curriculum and Instruction." Reported in *Annual Review of Research for School Leaders*, 1996.