

Reviews

Mike Seymour has gathered a remarkable group of essays from authors who share his concern about the role of education in creating a more positive future for our world. The book is inspiring, informative, and will be of great value to educators in these challenging times."

Dee Dickinson

CEO, New Horizons for Learning

Educating for Humanity provides a stunning panoramic view of our present cultural and ecological crisis that demonstrates convincingly how much is at stake in our decisions about education. Mike Seymour has invited some of the wisest people of our time to join with him in reflecting on the vital task of rethinking and reinventing how we teach our young people. They show us that in these troubled and complex times, education needs to prepare the next generation, not merely for employment, but for a meaningful, morally engaged life.

Ron Miller

Foundation for Education Renewal
founder, PsychologyPress/Holistic Education Press

The thrust of this volume is the quest to open the school experience to a different reality for students, a world that poses many contradictions that need resolution. Students need to consider the presence of material abundance alongside poverty, massive conflict and insecurity alongside desire for peace and stability, and natural beauty and order amidst environmental degradation and destruction. Only through confronting the challenges can these contradictions be overcome by human community. Education for humanity is awareness of both the problems and possibilities that we face and the proactive tools and courage to act together.

Henry Levin

Teachers College, Columbia University

P.O. Box 860
Clinton, WA 98236



PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE, WA
PERMIT NO. 2212

*A new
ground-breaking
book by
Mike Seymour*



Educating for Humanity

Rethinking the Purposes of Education



**with contributions from education
and cultural leaders:**

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| James Banks | David Jardine | Nancy Carlsson-Paige |
| Sheldon Berman | Rachael Kessler | Parker Palmer |
| Thomas Berry | Linda Lantieri | Thomas Sergiovani |
| Fritjof Capra | Michael Meade | Eric Schaps |
| Duane Elgin | Deborah Meier | Gregory Smith |
| Sam M. Intrator | Sonia Nieto | Dilafroz Williams |
| Don Trent Jacobs | Nel Noddings | Ronald Veronda |
| | David Orr | |

Contents

- Part I** The Great Work of Reconnecting to Self, Community, Earth and Spirit
- Part II** Educating for Self: Being Called into Life
- Part III** Educating for Authentic Community: Holding Space for the Heart
- Part IV** Educating for Earth: Future Generations and All of Life
- Part V** Educating for Spirit: The Quest for Heart, Character, and Meaning

Purpose

The promise and necessity of working toward “a world that works for all” is a viable aspiration for education at a time when the worldwide crises in social justice, peace, democracy and ecological integrity have become the defining issues of our times. Ample evidence from many schools past and present prove that the purpose of educating young people for character, compassion, purpose and commitment is integral with the mastery of intellectual skills and life competencies.

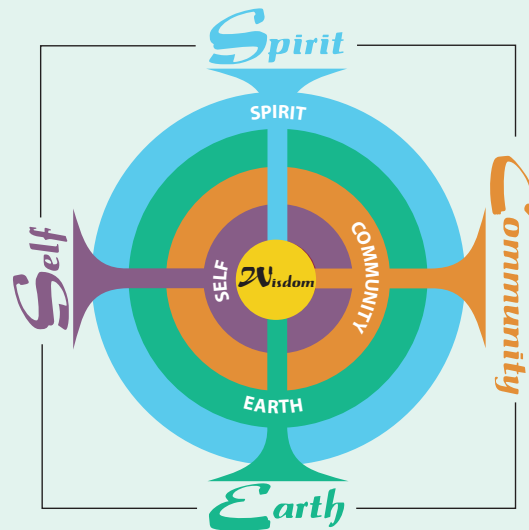
The school experience of young people must work interdependently and in harmony with the development of a whole, human being. Educational policy directions, especially over the last twenty years, have veered far away from the important work of educating for humanity. This book makes a powerful appeal to revisit educational purpose in light of what is most fundamental and important to human beings everywhere

Philosophy

Educating for humanity is a necessity if we are ever to achieve meaning, heart, peace and sustainability for the human family. We must support wholeness within each person as a foundation to create unity between individuals, communities, nations, and between humans and the great natural web of life of which we are a part.

At the individual level, we seek to educate the humanity of each person, supporting them in discovering their own unique gifts and purpose, and fostering the growth of personal meaning and fulfillment. Individuals connected authentically to themselves are best able to relate meaningfully to others and contribute to social harmony.

At the collective level, educating for humanity means recognizing the interdependence and unity within the human family, acting consciously to address social and economic injustice of any form. It recognizes that we cannot have a true peace as long as crushing inequalities between people are allowed to persist, promoting envy,



violence and leading to environmental destruction from the failure to achieve social cohesion and consensus.

At the other than human level, educating for humanity means realizing our interdependence with the natural world and our role as responsible members of the larger earth family. We must move away from a human-centered view of the natural world as a resource existing for the benefit of man, and begin listening to the language and wisdom of nature, according her rights at least equal to those we give ourselves.

Finally, at the spiritual level, educating for humanity defines being human as being one consciously with an

underlying unity that gives varied but equal meaning to all of life. It means sensing and respecting the one spirit inherent in all of life, allowing us to celebrate the rich diversity of religious and spiritual expression and the spirit within all things.

About the Author



Mike Seymour, M.S., is Director of The Heritage Institute, a progressive program of continuing education for K-12 educators affiliated with Antioch University, Seattle—reaching teachers with over 300 workshops, field studies, foreign travel programs and distance education courses in the Northwest, around the U.S. and the world. Mike has an extensive background in human development and Jungian psychology, as well as Christian and Buddhist contemplative practices, which are reflected in his writing, teaching and consulting.

Preparing this volume —*Educating for Humanity: Rethinking the Purposes of Education*— has taken Mike around the U.S., talking to the many notable educators who made this book possible, as well as visiting many public and private schools across the country that embody one or more principles of the Educating for Humanity philosophy. Several courses Mike offers through The Heritage Institute include: *Learning Circles: Building Classroom and School Community*; *We Teach Who We Are: An Educator’s Retreat*; and *Educating for Humanity: Rethinking the Purposes of Education*, a workshop in which Mike reviews the principles of his work and previews videos of progressive schools he has visited.

TO ORDER, send \$23.50* to
The Heritage Institute
P.O. Box 860
Clinton, WA 98236
Call 800/445-1305
or visit www.educatingforhumanity.org
*includes shipping and handling