

## A LETTER FROM 1983 ASTD PRESIDENT JULIE O'MARA

“We Modeled Excellence” were the words inscribed on the plaques distributed to the 1983 ASTD National Conference Design Committee. Those words describe a host of ASTD activities during 1983, a year in which a great deal of seeking, questioning, planning and defining came to fruition in the form of major new products and services for the field, and a strong new leadership stance for the Society.

It was a year of intense, highly focused activity for every segment of ASTD. It was also a landmark year in terms of our capability to apply the technology of our profession—leadership training, strategic planning and the like—deliberately and thoughtfully, for the benefit of our professional Society. With the strategic plan in hand, we knew where we wanted to go, and with the membership's overwhelming ratification of the new governance structure, we had the tools to get there. The framework is now in place to accomplish the Society's strategic plan.

Perhaps the pinnacle of this year of achievement was the National Conference, held in June in Washington, D.C. Its strong, creative matrix design built around the theme “Competence, Power and Strategy: Models for Excellence” provided a unified yet widely

diverse professional development experience for HRD professionals at all levels.

At a general membership meeting on Sunday, June 19, the most important change in the history of ASTD was mandated, when the new governance structure was voted in by a 95 percent majority. And a watershed professional development event occurred with the unveiling of *Models for Excellence: The Conclusions and Recommendations of the ASTD Training and Development Competency Study*. This highly praised, unprecedented publication, the result of two years of exhaustive research by the ASTD Professional Development Committee and a special Competency Study Task Force, is the first successful definition, explanation and model of the core body of knowledge that shapes the training and development profession.

Volunteer groups like the ones that conducted the competency study and produced *Models for Excellence* made my job as 1983 ASTD president especially meaningful and rewarding. The 1983 Board of Directors—ASTD's final Board before the new governance structure is implemented—did themselves, their Society and their profession proud. Their dedication and expertise contributed immeasurably to a year in which our organization of nearly 23,000 human resource development professionals placed itself closer than ever to a model of excellence.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie O'Mara". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.