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About this issue...

All articles in this issue were written by leaders in the field of training. The authors represent different sectors, including manufacturing: Frank Hart—Xerox Corporation, and Dennis Sarenpa—Control Data Corporation; service: Richard Davis—The Bell System, and Gearold Miles—Arthur Andersen & Co.; proprietary and custom development: Joseph Durzo—The Forum Corporation; beverage: Larry Kroh—Coca-Cola USA; the military: William Terrell—Navy training; and academic research: William Becker—Indiana University. Their articles reflect the rapid increase in ID being conducted by business, industry, and government.

Those of us who prepare instructional developers have been aware that, for several years, the best placement opportunities for our students are increasingly outside education. Not only is the pay better (we have become accustomed to that), but the resources and readiness to accept ID are often greater. Application of sophisticated hardware (simulators, videodiscs, teleconferencing, computers, etc.) is far more advanced in this sector of society than in schools. While some of the applications represent using "heavy" hardware to perform "light" tasks, it is also fair to say much cutting edge ID and instructional research is being conducted in business and the military.

The authors and guest editor welcome your comments.

—Kent L. Gustafson
Guest Editor