

CHARACTER AND EDUCATION 2000

Like other attempts to marshal the creativity and expertise of business to help schools improve the teaching of basic skill, as well as efforts directed at problem behaviors like teen pregnancy and alcohol and drug abuse, Education 2000 all but ignores the fact that learning and behavior do not take place in a moral vacuum.

With problem behaviors, it is obvious that if our goal is *prevention*, and not just *treatment*, our schools must once again join the efforts of parent and others to help build the character of our young people, for honor, personal responsibility, cooperation, and other civic and Moral virtues essential to their happiness and to success in life.

It is perhaps less obvious that basic skills of writing, math, science cannot be learned outside a moral environment. But children cannot learn in a chaotic classroom where there is no respect for one another or teachers, no solid discipline where cheating is permitted and even rewarded.

If we want to achieve the goals of Education 2000, then we and our schools must teach the values that make personal and academic achievement possible and meaningful.

To find out how you and your company can help build *character* for education 2000, contact us at the Ethics Resource Center in Washington.

This is Gary Edwards.

