Kenneth A. Strike
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Date: April 11, 2002
Time: 7:30 p.m.

Community, the Missing Element in School Reform:
Why Schools should be more like Congregations than Banks

This talk discusses the idea that schools should be communities. The idea seems an attractive one. But it is also not very clear what it means. Sometimes it is suggested that communities are created by shared values. But not all shared values create educational communities. What kinds are required? In this talk I will develop what I shall call the four Cs of community. These are Coherence, Cohesion, Care and Contact.

Kenneth A. Strike is Professor in and Chair of the Department of Educational Policy and Leadership at the University of Maryland. Prior to accepting this appointment he was Professor of Philosophy of Education at Cornell University where he taught since 1971. He is now Professor Emeritus at Cornell. He has the B.A. from Wheaton College and the M.A. and Ph. D. from Northwestern University. He has been a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of Alberta, is a past president of the Philosophy of Education Society and was elected to the National Academy of Education in 1993. His principal interests are professional ethics and political philosophy as they apply to matters of educational practice and policy. He is the author of several books and well over a hundred articles. Recent works include The Ethics of Teaching (with Jonas Soltis), The Ethics of School Administration (with Jonas Soltis and Emil Haller), Liberal Justice and the Marxist Critique of Schooling, Ethics and College Student Life (with Pamela Moss), "Professionalism, democracy and discursive communities: Normative reflections on restructuring" in AERJ, "The moral role of schooling in a liberal democratic society" in RRE, "The moral responsibilities of educators" in Handbook of Research on Teacher Education, "Can schools be communities, The tension between shared values and inclusion" in EQQ, and "Centralized goal formation, citizenship, and educational pluralism: Accountability in liberal democracies" in Educational Policy. Professor Strike gave the 1999 Kohlberg Memorial Lecture at the annual meetings of the Association for Moral Education. He has written on a variety of other topics including school reform, desegregation, affirmative action, and religious liberty in education. His current work concerns the exploration of the normative aspects of school reform emphasizing the notion of schools as communities. He is the recipient of a grant from the Spencer Foundation for this work.

Discussion: Friday, April 12,2002
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Room 2277, School of Education

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