

—Lynn Grover Gisi

is a statewide education foundation currently funding innovative projects by teachers. This partnership is composed of representatives from business, industry and labour and is funded by private donations.

The Minnesota Business Partnership, an organization of chief executive officers from 68 of that state's largest companies, is committed to improving the quality and cost-effectiveness of education.

Business involvement in education is not really a new phenomenon. School/business partnerships, following the Adopt-a-School model, have been visible in many large urban districts for many years, but the number and diversity of these partnerships are changing. Forty-five states have developed programmes or policies for encouraging partnerships with business, and, as states continue to court these new markets of education resources, corporations are starting their own programmes to work with education institutions. Corporations are assisting with training teachers priority on school leadership.

The Colorado Employability Skills Project (ESP) evolved from concern about employer complaints that many high school graduates lacked the basic skills they needed to be employable. ESP has brought together teams of business, education and community leaders in 15 school districts to determine whether specific employment skills are taught in selected high schools. Where school instruction programmes do not address specific skills, local and state teams are locating or developing appropriate programmes.

The Massachusetts Commonwealth Inservice Institute funds inservice education programmes designed by and for school states. While the majority of programmes benefit teachers, the institute is placing a priority on school leadership.