

PHILOSOPHY

It is the philosophy of the *REFUGEE EDUCATORS' NETWORK* that in this increasingly diverse state it is necessary for people to have ready access to information about the backgrounds, cultures, languages, histories, and peoples who have arrived recently as refugees, immigrants, and other newcomers. As it is difficult to locate information concerning some of those who have recently arrived in the United States, the REFUGEE EDUCATORS' NETWORK's primary role is to serve as a clearinghouse for information and as a place at which persons interested in these issues can meet to share resources and information and to promote the education of both newcomers and their receiving communities. Further, the members of the REFUGEE EDUCATORS' NETWORK believe that it is necessary to specialize in selected areas to become valuable as a resource for others, and to encourage others to form similar groups to specialize in the peoples of other backgrounds, cultures, and histories. Given this scope, the REFUGEE EDUCATORS' NETWORK has as its primary focus Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, refugee/immigrant issues, current events in the homeland and the U.S., first and second language learning, and successful acculturation within the wider American society.

PURPOSE

It shall be the purpose of the REFUGEE EDUCATORS' NETWORK:

- To organize an annual conference on topics related to Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, newcomer students, refugees/immigrants, language acquisition, acculturation, background, research and teaching strategies.
- To uncover, select, and gather information resources related to the peoples who come to the United States as refugees, with a primary focus on Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam.
- To make information easily accessible to interested persons.
- To trigger greater general interest in learning about the newcomer communities.
- To increase the quantity and quality of educational and informational resources available to educators, students, and others.
- To promote among the children of refugees greater understanding of and identification with their cultural and linguistic heritages.
- To encourage the development of quality educational programs for newcomer students and their classmates.
- To promote the continuation and transmission of traditional arts and skills, and to preserve examples of traditional techniques on video.
- To network throughout the nation professionals, specialists, and experts in all the fields serving the interests of refugees, immigrants, and other newcomers.