

**Richard C. Iannuzzi**, *President*  
**Andrew Pallotta**, *Executive Vice President*  
**Maria Neira**, *Vice President*  
**Kathleen M. Donahue**, *Vice President*  
**Lee Cutler**, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to share Volume III of *Educator's Voice*, NYSUT's journal of best practices in education. There is no doubt students must understand academic texts in content subjects to succeed in secondary school. New York educators have observed that student performance on high-stakes assessments is frequently more a measure of reading ability than of content understanding.

An important study published in 2007, *Academic Literacy Instruction for Adolescents*, focuses our attention on instruction that will be cognitively and intellectually engaging for students and to highlight literacy as the center within each of the academic disciplines, not the sole responsibility of the reading or English teacher. In *Where We Stand: K-12 Literacy*, the American Federation of Teachers called in 2006 for the identification and development of proven, research-based instructional strategies, practices and materials that enable adolescents to become more literate, with a particular focus on what works in schools with large populations of struggling adolescent readers. In addition, summaries of two significant reports published by the Carnegie Corporation, "*Reading Next*" and "*Writing Next*," begin on page 94. All articles in this issue provide examples of the recommendations from these reports, as noted on the title page of each article.

This edition of *Educator's Voice* is New York's response to the challenges. It contains research-based practices developed by NYSUT members who are increasing student comprehension in content-area instruction. These articles include strategies that apply to all subjects, studies conducted by teachers with higher education partners and reports of action research projects conducted by teams of teachers. While every content area is not addressed directly, the articles provide a wide variety of instructional practices which will help to inform every content teacher.

Enjoy this issue of *Educator's Voice*. We welcome your comments and ideas for future publications.

Sincerely,



Maria Neira  
Vice President, NYSUT