**Bill Martin**  
(from Department of Education & Training, Grampians Region, Australia)

In 1967, Bill Martin began an outstanding career as an elementary and junior high teacher. In 1982 he embarked upon a journey that caused him to become an internationally recognized change agent to reform education. His thirst for personal continuous learning has given him a rare and unique knowledge base that integrates the domains of education, organizations and thinking. Bill's knowledge is so unique in terms of application that Dr. John Edwards, adjunct professor at the University of Queensland in Australia says, “Bill is the only person he knows in the world who can extract a shared vision from the hearts, passions, and energies of people working in a learning organization.”

Bill’s ability to create a shared vision and then apply practical tools to implement a long-term plan to move to vision accomplishment has earned national recognition for learning communities in two states. Three of the four schools he has served in leadership capacities have been designated state and national “Blue Ribbon” schools.

The thinking skills program developed by the Bleyl Junior High School community in Houston, Texas became an international model for other schools. Bill’s design of a shared vision at Monroe High School in Monroe, Michigan earned that community a $500,000 Department of Education Small Learning Community grant in September of 2000. The Blue Ribbon award is given to approximately 300 U.S. schools annually. In 1993 Bill became one of six finalists from across the country in the nation’s first National Principal of the Year competition. That same year the National School Safety Center recognized Bill as one of ten Principals of Leadership in the U.S. Bill is a sought after consultant and presenter in both education and business and has delivered keynote addresses in the US, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Bahrain, Kuwait, the United Kingdom, Canada and Norway.

Bill’s work to reform the American public high school is detailed in his chapter “Building a Thoughtful High School” published in the 3rd edition of Developing Minds, a book edited by Dr. Art Costa. After a year as a Visiting Professor at the University of Toledo, where he was co-designer of the University’s Center of Reform in Education, Bill retired from public education to establish Bill Martin and Associates, a company that allows him to use his lifetime of experience as a full-time international educational and business consultant.

Today, His partnership with long-time friend and mentor, Dr. John Edwards, is creating an international network of schools utilizing a unique and powerful three-year shared visioning process. The Community Designed Education (CDE) presently includes 75 schools in New Zealand, Australia, USA, UK, Sweden, and Norway.