DESIGNS FOR ADULT LEARNING

Practical resources, exercises, and course outlines from the father of adult learning.

MALCOLM S. KNOWLES

ASTD
**AMERICAN SOCIETY
FOR TRAINING AND
DEVELOPMENT**

Table of Contents

Preface

    I retired as professor of adult and community college education at North Carolina State University in 1979 after five years there. Previously, I had been a professor of education at Boston University for 14 years; executive director of the Adult Education Association of the United States for eight years; director of adult education at the YMCAs of Detroit, Chicago, and Boston for 10 years; and director of training for the National Youth Administration of Massachusetts for six years.

    During this time, I also conducted short courses, workshops, and conference sessions for a variety of institutions and organizations, including colleges and universities, government agencies, voluntary organizations, businesses, and religious institutions in this country and abroad. After retirement, I continued to perform these activities as well as write books and articles full-time.

    My first book, *Informal Adult Education*, was published in 1950, and my latest, *The Making of an Adult Educator*, in 1989. I have published 17 books—two of them coauthored with my wife—and have published 230 articles.

    Recently one of my publishers asked me, "Malcolm, is there anything you have wanted to say that you haven't said yet?" My first reaction was, "Of course not." But I started thinking seriously about that question, and it gradually dawned on me that I have experimented with a number of designs in my courses, workshops, and conference sessions, that I have copies of most of them, and that it might be useful to others for me to analyze and share them. This book is the fruit of that process.