



news release

p: 703.683.9586 f: 703.548.2383
press@astd.org www.astd.org

ASTD media contacts: Kristen Fyfe
703.683.8192
kfyfe@astd.org

Jennifer Homer
703.683.8123
jhomer@astd.org

ASTD Presents its Lifetime Achievement in Workplace Learning and Performance Award to John Kotter

(Alexandria, VA) June 2, 2008 – The American Society for Training & Development (ASTD) presented John Kotter with its Lifetime Achievement in Workplace Learning and Performance Award on June 1 during the ASTD 2009 International Conference & Exposition in Washington, D.C. This ASTD award recognizes an individual for a body of work that has had significant impact on the field of workplace learning and performance.

Kotter is recognized for his extensive and impressive work on leadership and change, topics he has been shaping for 25 years. Kotter says he has never cared about the “hot topics of the day. I prefer the big ideas that can be important and inspirational for a hundred years.”

Kotter came to the topic of leadership when he saw how important it was in making organizations perform well. Kotter’s initial interests were in organizational and managerial performance. A doctoral thesis on mayors as leaders opened the door to a decades-long study of leadership and work that has continually shed new light on the understanding of how effective leaders are developed.

Kotter’s innovative ideas on leadership were unveiled in a 1990 *Harvard Business Review* article “What Leaders Really Do” which posited that leadership and management are two distinctive and complementary systems of action. That work led to the book *Force for Change: How Leadership Differs from Management* which introduced the notion that “little acts of leadership” could come from anywhere in an organization. In 1997 he published the seminal book *Leading Change* which unveiled an eight-stage prescription for a successful change initiative.

Kotter has authored or co-authored 17 books that have been translated into 50 different languages and sold close to three million copies. In 2001 *BusinessWeek* rated him the top leadership guru in America. Kotter is Konosuke Matsushita Professor of Leadership Emeritus at Harvard Business School and is a graduate of MIT and Harvard.

-more-

About ASTD

ASTD (American Society for Training & Development) is the world's largest association dedicated to workplace learning and performance professionals. ASTD's members come from more than 100 countries and connect locally in more than 130 U.S. chapters and with more than 30 international partners. Members work in thousands of organizations of all sizes, in government, as independent consultants, and suppliers.

ASTD started in 1943. In recent years, ASTD has widened the profession's focus to link learning and performance to individual and organizational results, and is a sought-after voice on critical public policy issues. For more information, visit www.astd.org.

###