

Reflection for Zig Engelmann

On behalf of the DART network and the Aeschbury family, I commemorate the life of Siegfried Englemann. I only talked with Zig on the phone a couple of times. I knew him primarily through the materials that he produced and the people that he trained. What I and my colleagues experienced both through the material and the people was an amazing commitment to making sure that children, especially poor and minority children, learned to read and do math. That commitment to excellence was (and is) amazing.

DART and its 21 affiliates work in some of the poorest, most depressed communities in the country. We know well the culture of despair that often overwhelms those communities. It is difficult to find people that do not surrender to that culture of despair. So what I and my colleagues admire was the tenacious commitment on the part of you all to teaching kids. You did not accept the excuses. You fought to do things well. You did not compromise. And Zig led the way. That is inspiring and it is very important.

And I promise to you that I will do everything in my power to continue to fight for children. God bless you all.

John Aeschbury
Executive Director, The DART Center