Hacking the Mind -- Efforts ancient and modern to teach skills of thinking, learning, self-management, and more often amount to 'hacking the mind'! Hacking any system means leveraging the system's capabilities beyond its typical performance to get powerful results quickly. Typical skills of thinking, self-management, etc., involve relatively simple rules that (if all goes well) mobilize existing capacities in neglected directions. Hacking the mind contrasts with elaborate learning such as mastering a new language or a musical instrument. Besides positive hacks, contemporary society swarms with such negative hacks as deceptive political manipulations and advertising. It’s a responsibility of educators to understand how hacking the mind works, foster positive hacks, and build learner alertness and resistance to negative hacks.

David Perkins is the Carl H. Pforzheimer, Jr., Research Professor of Teaching and Learning at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Perkins received his Ph.D. in mathematics and artificial intelligence from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1970. As a graduate student he also was a founding member of Harvard Project Zero, a basic research project investigating human symbolic capacities and their development, at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He co-directed Project Zero for nearly 30 years, and now serves as senior co-director on its steering committee.

Please join us for “School of Education Day” on September 9th. A complete schedule can be viewed at www.albany.edu/education.