

ICI Provides School-to-Work Outreach Staff Update

Recognizing the heightened priority of schools to help all students – with and without disabilities – make the transition from school to work, the Institute on Community Integration (ICI) started the School-to-Work Outreach Project. This three-year funded project by the U.S. Department of Education begun in October, 1994, was designed to assist and support school-to-work initiatives nationwide through the following activities: identify and validate exemplary models/practices/strategies nationwide, make available this information to schools and organizations, and provide technical assistance in the adoption and replication of these programs. The exemplary programs identified by this project are those that improve the capacity of special education programs to fully implement the transition service requirements of federal legislation, promote the inclusion and participation of youth with disabilities in school-based and work-based learning programs, and assist students with disabilities in developing competitive workplace skills through improved services and better-trained service providers.

The selection process for exemplary programs begins with a nationally distributed call for nominations. Those interested in being nominated for this project are then given an application and application guide. This nomination/application process will be done approximately five times in the three year period of this grant. The first round of applications has already brought in 52 nominations from 20 states, of which 18 applications were received. The next stage is to send completed applications to reviewers. Comments by the reviewers are then summarized and sent to a National Advisory Panel who will decide what programs are “exemplary”. Though there is no limit as to exemplary programs, the programs must adhere to specified minimum criteria. The criteria falls under 10 areas: (1) organization/program philosophy, (2) student empowerment, (3) goal driven and outcome based, (4) collaboration, (5) levels of organizational support, (6) cost effectiveness and efficiency, (7) evaluation and organization/program effectiveness, (8) innovative and priority related, (9) durability and transportability, and (10) dissemination readiness.

After the programs are chosen, “project profiles” will be written, informational sheets that describe the program, staffing, contact person, and answer the question, why the program is exemplary. At the end of the project, a booklet of these profiles will be produced. The technical component of this project will involve providing information to schools or linking families and peers to noted programs. Also, the project is developing a list of consultants who have expertise in transition and school-to-work who can be available to schools.

The project has been taking advantage of current technology to reach possible applicants. There is a World Wide Web site that has a nomination form which has elicited some responses. There is also an e-mail address that allows for queries. The project is currently setting up a “listserv” which will allow for interested parties to share information and have discussions on school-to-work programs and resources. The project also has a three-panel display which easily travels and is available to anyone who is going to a conference.

For more information on the School-to-Work Outreach Project, call Julie Lindholm at 626-8155 or Teri Wallace at 626-7220.

- **Staff Arrivals:** Nicole Fox, GRA on Behavioral Momentum Project for Carol Davis; May Yang, student secretary for the Publications Office; and Jane Minnema, RA for the Prenatal Cocaine Exposure project with Mary McEvoy.
- **Staff Departures:** Kim McCoy, student secretary in the Publications Office leaves to be a Residence Assistant; Theresia Ahn, undergraduate RA, returns to her home in Korea; and Stacey Moore, RA for the RTC, leaves for an RA position at Ohio State in Akron.
- Marie Black will be leaving ICI as of July 1, 1995. Marie has been with ICI for nearly two years and assisted in the development of administrative processes which significantly benefited the Institute. There will be no replacement for her position.
- President Clinton recently named Charlie Lakin to be on the President’s Committee on Mental Retardation. The Committee provides advice and assistance in the area of mental retardation to the President and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and makes annual reports to the President concerning mental retardation.
- Pam Hunt recently attended the National Center for Independent Living conference in Bethesda, Md. Pam is a board member of the Metropolitan Center for Independent Living.

Dates to Remember . . .

- June 19: ICI Council, 9:30 a.m., Room 118.
- July 10: Cultural Competence Committee, 2:00 p.m., Room 118.

From the Front Office

News from ICI's Administrative Staff

- **Minutes are On-Line.** The Institute Council agendas and minutes are now available on ICI's World Wide Web server. The address is: <http://www.ici.coled.umn.edu/iccouncil/>. For more information, see Dawn in Room 102. For questions about the World Wide Web and how to access it, call Tim Soulen at 624-7337.
- **Leaking Air Conditioner.** The air conditioner in Room 5 is leaking. If you have any boxes stored beneath the air conditioner, they should be removed.
- **ICI Awards and Promotions.** Scott McConnell and Mary McEvoy were promoted to full professor and Jennifer York was promoted to associate professor with indefinite tenure. Recipients of this year's President's Student Leadership and Service Award from ICI were Noelle Knapp and Lisa Syncyn. This year's Civil Service Outstanding Service awards were given to Peter Aleshire, Karen Anderson, Laura Lafrenz, and Michael Moore. And Mary McEvoy received this year's College of Education Community Service Award in recognition for her contributions to the improvement of special education and related services to children with disabilities and their families, and for her policy making and legislative action at the state and federal levels.
- **AAMR Conference.** The American Association on Mental Retardation (AAMR) held its 119th annual meeting in San Francisco May 30–June 3. ICI staff attending the conference included Mary Hayden, Sheryl Larson, Roger Stancliffe, and Brian Aberly who presented on the Longitudinal Study; Amy Hewitt, who presented on the Direct Services Training Initiative; Charlie Lakin, who gave nearly two presentations a day; as well as Jean Ness and Teri Wallace. Sheryl also gave a presentation on her trip to Russia.

Bits and Pieces

Information from the Institute's Research and Technology Consulting Group (RTCG, 110 Pattee, 4-7337) and the Publications Office (109 Pattee, 4-4512).

- **Restructuring, ICI Listserv**
- **RTCG Restructuring.** The RTCG will be restructuring how it provides services so that it can better serve its customers. The RTCG will be setting up an RTCG helpline, creating a one stop location for service requests, and setting up a request tracking system. RTCG hopes it will become more user friendly and customer service oriented. More details will be provided once the system is up and running.
- **ICI Listserv.** The RTCG now operates a listserv for ICI. A listserv is a program that sets up e-mail mailing lists: send a message to one address and everyone subscribed to that mailing list gets the message. The advantage of a listserv over static "forward to" mailing lists is that users can subscribe or unsubscribe to the mailing list simply by sending an e-mail request to the listserv software. Everything is handled automatically. Additionally, the listserv program saves all the messages received into a single file called a digest. This may happen on a weekly or monthly basis depending on how busy the list is. Users who don't want many individual messages can request to receive only the digests. Listserv mailing lists are an excellent way to have national or international discussions over the Internet, and to disseminate calendars, announcements, press releases, and other information.

Miscellaneous

- **PACER Center to present Judith E. Heumann.** Judith E. Heumann, Assistant Secretary of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), will speak at Temple Israel on Wednesday, June 28 from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. Heumann will address issues concerning children and young adults with disabilities and their families. Temple Israel is located at 2324 Emerson Avenue South, Minneapolis. Advance registration is requested. Call the PACER Center at 827-2966 to register or for more information.
- **Collaboration for Inclusive Schooling.** Jennifer York, Robi Kronberg, and Tony Paulsen will present a week-long session through the Educational Psychology department, "Collaboration for Inclusive Schooling: Strategies for Educating Students with Disabilities in General Education." The session lasts from June 26-30 and participants will include general and special educators, related services personnel, parents, and administrators. For more information, call Ruth Berman at 624-4848.
- **Positive Behavioral Strategies Conference.** On May 20, 1995, over 200 educators and family members attended a one-day statewide conference, Partnerships for Positive Behavioral Strategies, sponsored by the Special Project to Provide Technical Assistance, Inservice Training, and Site Development for Positive Behavioral Support Strategies for Students with Disabilities, a federally funded project jointly administered by ICI and MDE.
- **Birthdays.** Janet Bast (7/10); Nancy Edwards (6/30); Dawn Engelstad (7/7); Vicki Gaylord (6/18); Ruth Hampton (6/16); Robi Kronberg (6/27); Charlie Lakin (7/10); Jackie Simacek (7/7); Mary Sinclair (7/12); CJ Thomas (7/4); Dick Weatherman (6/23).