

August 15, 2011

What Have We Been Up To? A Glance at the Past Year at ICI

What has the Institute on Community Integration (ICI) been up to this year? Here's a quick look at a few of the highlights of the past 12 months gleaned from our 2010/2011 NIRS database, where ICI projects and centers reported their accomplishments and activities for the year:

- ICI employed 127 faculty, staff and students involved in our 78 projects and 6 affiliated centers. We carried out our work in collaboration with over 200 community partners around the country, and had an annual budget of over \$25 million.
 - The Check & Connect school engagement program of ICI continued to grow, providing training and technical assistance on program implementation in 21 communities nationwide to over 980 participants. In addition, over 970 copies of the Check & Connect implementation manual were sold through ICI's Publications Office.
 - Through the E-Connect e-mentoring project, ICI staff provided consultation and training on e-mentoring to over 130 representatives of interested agencies, organizations, businesses, and schools around Minnesota. E-Connect is a modified mentoring program that uses electronic communication and face-to-face meetings to connect high school students with disabilities with mentors from local businesses.
 - ICI's North Central Regional Resource Center (NCRRC) worked with its partners to begin development of the Web-based State Performance Plan (SPP) University. SPP University will offer online courses that help IDEA stakeholders develop skills, knowledge, and capabilities around all aspects of the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report for education of people aged 0-21 years with disabilities.
 - The RTC launched an online "build-a-report" feature in its Residential Information Systems Project (RISP) Web site, allowing the public to create customized analyses and reports from its national database of state-by-state data on residential services for persons with developmental disabilities. The RTC has been home to the RISP data collection for over 25 years.
 - ICI staff contributed to the emerging national conversation about effective models of postsecondary education programs and services for students with intellectual disabilities by developing a proposed taxonomy for those programs and services. The model was published in the newsletter *Policy Research Brief* from ICI's Research and Training Center on Community Living (RTC).
 - ICI's National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO) received a 4-year, \$45 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to form a partnership of national centers and 19 States that will develop innovative approaches to alternate assessments for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities in grades 3-12.
 - The College of Direct Support (CDS), a nationwide, online training program for Direct Support Professionals operated by the RTC and MC Strategies/Elsevier, continued to grow. It added 61,940 new learners who completed 669,600 lessons during this year, reaching an accumulated enrollment since its founding of 294,940 learners.
- FFI on these and other activities of ICI, visit <http://ici.umn.edu>. Also, watch for the 2010/2011 ICI annual report coming out early this fall from the Publications Office.

Staff Update

- **Staff Hires:** None. **Staff Departure:** **Nora Murphy**, GRA, Transition.
- In addition to her work at ICI, **Carol Ely** has accepted a one-semester, part-time Teaching Specialist position in the U's Program in Occupational Therapy. She'll be participating in instruction for the course, Occupational Therapy Process for Society.
- In August, **Rachael Sarto** is completing both her Master's degree in social work and her Certificate in Disability Policy and Services.
- **Renata Ticha** co-facilitated a discussion session called "Learning in the Field: Experiences of Leadership Trainees" at the 2011 OSEP Project Directors' Conference in Washington, DC, July 18-20.
- This spring, **Jerry Smith** received two awards for *We Have Choices*, the documentary that RTC Media produced with the Self-Advocacy Association of New York State. In April, he received a Silver Telly, the highest honor from the Silver Telly Council, a judging and oversight body that receives over 13,000 competition entries from around the world every year. In May, *We Have Choices* received a second award, this time a Platinum Award at the 2011 Hermes Creative Awards (another international competition), in the documentary category. The film can be viewed at <http://rtc.umn.edu/rtcmedia/wehavechoices/>.

Dates to Remember...

- August 19: Pizza Forum with cake for Lee Cain's retirement, 12-1, Room 118
- August 29: Fall Term begins for GRAs
- September 5: University Closed
- September 13: ICI Council Meeting, 10-12, Room 118

From the Front Office

News from ICI's Administrative Staff

- **GRA Appointment Information.** Summer Term ends August 28 and Fall Semester begins August 29. Information on the continuation of Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) appointments for the academic year (8/29/11-5/27/12) was e-mailed to supervisors on July 28. The deadline for submitting information was August 12. Anyone hiring GRAs, and any GRAs leaving ICI, should contact Amy Kurowski at kuro0008@umn.edu.
- **New Custodian Schedule.** The new Facilities Management Custodial Team model goes into effect August 15. A rotating team of custodians will clean Pattee Hall during the day instead of in

the evening, finishing their work by 1:30 p.m. Although the proposed schedule is subject to change, the new custodians plan to clean the hallways, restrooms, and kitchen every morning, and individual offices every Monday and Tuesday. They will use new equipment that will improve the building's air quality.

- **New Orientation Checklist.** ICI is introducing a new Orientation Checklist for new hires. The new checklist will be broken down by employee group and include suggested timelines for orientation (first day, week, month, etc.). Beth Nelson will work with supervisors about how to use the new checklist.

Miscellaneous

- **End-of-Life Care Planning.** Honoring Choices Minnesota (<http://www.honoringchoices.org/>) offers online resources to inspire and support conversations regarding end-of-life care planning. It's Web site includes a section of video clips specifically focusing on people with developmental disabilities (<http://www.honoringchoices.org/videostories/fcip/>).
- **Arc National Convention.** The Arc is holding its national convention this year in Denver, September 16-19. The theme of The Arc's 2011 convention is "Achieving New Heights." Members of The Arc, chapter staff and volunteers, professionals and experts in the field, individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families, and others in the intellectual and developmental disability community will meet to spotlight best ideas and share best practices. ICI's Kurt Rutzen is scheduled to present. FFI, visit <http://www.thearc.org/page.aspx?pid=2865>.
- **NCWD/Youth Brief on "Soft Skills."** The National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability/for Youth's (NCWD/Youth) latest *Info Brief*, "Helping Youth Develop Soft Skills for Job Success: Tips for Parents and Families," is now available online at <http://www.ncwd-youth.info/information-brief-28>. Parents and family members can help young people prepare for job success by working with them and encouraging them to develop soft skills. "Soft skills" are

common sense skills that are important in all aspects of life and have been identified by employers as particularly important for success at work.

- **Research Compares Youth with Disabilities Then and Now.** A new report from SRI International, a nonprofit scientific research institute, *Comparisons Across Time of the Outcomes of Youth with Disabilities 4 Years after High School*, compares two longitudinal studies of youth with disabilities held from 1983-1990 and from 2001-2009. The research, available from the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences (IES), shows that 46% of young adults with disabilities had enrolled in postsecondary education in 2005, versus only 26% in 1990. However, youth with disabilities were slightly less likely to find employment in 2005 than in 1990 (56% and 62%, respectively). FFI, visit <http://ies.ed.gov/ncser/pubs/20103008/index.asp>.
- **Birthdays.** **Matthew Hall** (8/19), **Martha Thurlow** (8/19), **Christopher Johnstone** (8/20), **Mai Vang** (8/23), **Kamarrie Davis** (8/26), **Beth Jones** (8/31), **Srividhya Shanker** (9/2), **Carol Ely** (9/6), **April Kaisen** (9/8), **Cliff Poetz** (9/12), **Jerry Smith** (9/14), and **Kurt Rutzen** (9/15). Did we miss your birthday? Let us know! Call 4-2380 or e-mail kuro0008@umn.edu.

Bits & Pieces

Information on New Publications and Web Sites

- **New Publications.** The following new ICI publications are available:
 - *Impact: Feature Issue on Supporting the Social Well-Being of Children and Youth with Disabilities* (August 2011). Available now from the Publications Office, and on the Web at <http://ici.umn.edu/products/impact/241> after August 16.
 - *NCEO Brief 4: Understanding Subgroups in Common State Assessments: Special Education Students and ELLs* (July 2011). Published by the Institute's National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO) and available on the Web at <http://www.cehd.umn.edu/nceo/OnlinePubs/briefs/brief04/brief04.html>.
- **Report on Postsecondary Retention.** Chris Bremer and Chris Opsal were among the co-authors of *Relative Impact of Interventions to Improve Achievement and Retention in Postsecondary Occupational Programs*, which the National Research Center for Career and Technical Education at the University of Louisville [Kentucky] published in July. The report is on the Web at http://136.165.122.102/UserFiles/File/Tech_Reports/NRCCTE_Relative_Impact_report.pdf.
- **Journal Article on Postsecondary Retention.** Chris Bremer was among the co-authors of "Keeping At-Risk Students in School: A Systematic Review of College Retention Programs," which was published in *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 33(2). The article is online at <http://epa.sagepub.com/content/33/2/214>.
- **Your Staff Profile on ICI's Web Site.** The ICI Web Team has published an updated design for the Web site and included a link to "Staff login" in the upper right of every page. This will allow you to easily update your staff profile on the ICI Web site (everyone at ICI has a Web page). You can update your profile from anywhere at <http://ici.umn.edu/> by clicking the "Staff login" link.
- **FYI Deadline.** Items for the next *FYI* should be submitted to Tom (donag003@umn.edu) by September 9.