



May 20, 2014

ICI and Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Offer Youth Entrepreneurship Program

American Indians have a long tradition of entrepreneurship, and for the past five years the Institute on Community Integration (ICI) has partnered with Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College (FDLTCC) and the Fond du Lac reservation in Cloquet, Minnesota, to build on this tradition with today's youth. Through a summer program titled The Young American Indian Entrepreneur (YAIE) Academy, American Indian high school students from north-eastern Minnesota have had the opportunity to pursue entrepreneurial interests, and grow as individuals.

The YAIE Academy provides an intensive, six-day residential academic- and activity-based program for 15 American Indian students entering grades 11 and 12 to learn the "ins and outs" of becoming an entrepreneur. Students are usually from northeastern Minnesota, and the academy takes place at FDLTCC. Activities are based on the *Young American Indian Entrepreneur*, a curriculum that ICI co-published with FDLTCC in 2010. Students give presentations as they develop creative ideas for small businesses, work in teams to create potential products, and visit local Native entrepreneurs at their businesses. Business-like behavior is expected from students: timeliness, appropriate dress, preparation before class, asking thought-provoking questions of guest business men and women, attentiveness when auditing college classes, and learning the importance of teamwork and giving encouragement to peers. The week culminates with each student presenting a three-minute "elevator pitch" on his or her small business idea to faculty, parents, staff, and judges. FDLTCC faculty, administrators, and staff are mentors, teachers, and judges, and FDLTCC students, many of whom are business majors, act as dorm monitors and support-staff for the academy participants. Over the years, community members have also become mentors and presenters.

"We have created a strong program," says the project's director at ICI, Jean Ness. "The daily schedule runs from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., with later evening time for journal writing and class preparation. By the end of the week, students are exhausted, but proud of their accomplishments." She also adds, "It's inspiring to watch the students as they begin crafting their ideas of businesses that stem from their passions and interests. But, the Academy is about much more than entrepreneurship. Youth learn self-confidence, cultural awareness, self-advocacy, teamwork, career awareness, and how to use their strengths to support themselves. I often see timid students arrive on Sunday night and by Friday afternoon they are prepared to present their elevator pitch to a crowd of 100 or more. Several students apply to return year after year."

This summer marks the sixth, and possibly final, summer of the Academy. It has been funded as part of a Title III Project from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Post-secondary Education. "Unfortunately, Title III funding for the Academy is ending, and unless a sponsor comes forward this will be our last summer," says Jean.

American Indian students currently entering their junior or senior year of high school may still apply for the Summer 2014 Academy by contacting Suzan Desmond at suzan@fdltcc.edu or 218-879-0701 by May 24 and requesting an application packet. FFI on the program, contact Jean at nessx008@umn.edu or 612-625-5322.

Staff Update

- **Staff Hires:** **Johannah Carney**, Coordinator, RTC; and **Bahjo Mahamud**, GRA, Adult Services. **Staff Departures:** **Shelley Kreibich**, GRA, Adult Services; and **Kate Welshons**, Hourly Employee, Adult Services.
- On April 6, **Amy Hewitt** participated in a roundtable, hosted by U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar, focusing on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and discussing the RTC's Minneapolis Somali ASD Prevalence Project findings, as well as future research needs. RTC staff made several other presentations in April about ASD in the Minneapolis Somali community, including: Amy spoke at the Rondo Community Library in St. Paul; Amy, **Anab Gulaid**, and prominent Somali health professionals presented at an autism symposium in Minneapolis co-hosted by RTC; and Anab, **Amanda Ryan**, and **Bahjo Mahamud** participated in a Q&A session in Pattee Hall that will be used to create a podcast discussing Islam, disability, ASD, and stigma.
- **Jerry Smith** graduated in May with an MBA from the University of Minnesota. **Chris Opsal** successfully defended her doctoral dissertation on May 9. Her Ph.D. is in Education Policy and Leadership.
- In April, **Sheryl Lazarus** was appointed president of the Inclusion and Accommodation in Educational Assessment SIG of the American Educational Research Association (AERA) for 2014-15. **Laurene Christensen** and **Vitaliy Shyyan** have been appointed the SIG program chairs for 2014-15.
- Ingrid Stella Virginia Nord was born April 28 to **Kristin Hamre** and **Derek Nord**. Congratulations!

Dates to Remember...

- May 26: University closed

From the Front Office

News from ICI's Administrative Staff

- **Personal Holiday Reminder.** Employees have until June 30, 2014 to use their Personal Holiday for the 2013-14 year. To record your Personal Holiday in Workgroup Calendar, select "Personal Holiday." Can't remember if you used it or not? Visit the self-service Web site at <http://hrss.umn.edu> and see the link and more information under "Personal Holiday" on the right side of the screen. Questions? Contact Amy Kurowski at kuro0008@umn.edu.
- **GRA Summer Appointment Letters.** Summer appointment letters (5/26-8/24) were sent to supervisors on May 9. Any Graduate Research Assistants (GRAs) who have not yet signed their letters should check with their supervisors. Letters must be signed and returned to Amy in 102C Pattee Hall. Questions? Contact Amy at kuro0008@umn.edu.
- **Performance Reviews.** Annual performance reviews for undergraduate, graduate, and hourly employees are due June 2. Reviews for Civil Service and Labor Represented staff are due June 13. Questions? Contact Beth Nelson at nelso106@umn.edu.
- **Timecard Employees and Their Supervisors.** Current timecards run through June 15. New timecards will be distributed in early June.
- **P&A Appointments.** Professional and Administrative (P&A) Appointments for 2014-15 begin on June 16. Appointment letters should be sent in early June.
- **Statewide Tornado Drill Results.** On April 24, Pattee Hall participated in a statewide Tornado Drill. Building occupants were asked to shelter-in-place once directed. In general, the drill went well and occupants participated. In a staff survey after the drill, however, many employees acknowledged that they did not review the Emergency Building Plan as suggested earlier that week, and said they did not know exactly what to do. In the case of an actual emergency, Pattee Hall Building Team members may not get advanced warning, thus staff need to know what to do in sheltering-in-place situations, as well as evacuation procedures. The Building Team will send some follow-up information by the end of May, but all staff should remember that they are responsible for knowing the information in the Emergency Plan. Thank you to all who participated that day.

Miscellaneous

- **Partners in Policymaking Class.** Participants are being recruited for the upcoming Class 32 of the Partners in Policymaking program of the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities. This 9-month leadership training program is designed for adults with disabilities and parents of young children with developmental disabilities. It teaches leadership skills, and the process of developing positive partnerships with elected officials and others who make policy decisions about services used by people with disabilities and their families. This year's program begins in September 2014 and runs through May 2015. All classes will be held at the Minneapolis Airport Marriott in Bloomington. Interested persons must complete the application form by July 11. The form, and additional information, can be found online at www.mngts.org/partnersinpolicymaking. A printed booklet with information and the application form is also available by contacting Carol Schoeneck at GTS Educational Events, 651-222-7409, ext. 205 (metro) and 800-569-6878, ext. 205 (non-metro).
- **Birthdays.** Amy Hewitt (5/19), Nancy McCulloh (5/22), Jenna Conley (5/22), Roxanne Klemm (5/26), Vitaliy Shyyan (5/28), Melissa Critchley (6/9), Tom Donaghy (6/9), James Flowers (6/10), Arlene Russell Bender (6/11), and Gretchen Hatch (6/14). Did we miss your birthday? Let us know! Call 4-2380 or e-mail kuro0008@umn.edu.

Bits & Pieces

New Publications and Web Resources

- **New Publications.** The following new ICI publications are available:
 - *Impact: Feature Issue on Stories of Advocacy, Stories of Change from People with Disabilities, Their Families, and Allies (1988-2013)* (Winter/Spring 2014). Published by ICI and its Research and Training Center on Community Living (RTC). Available from the Publications Office and on the Web at <http://ici.umn.edu/products/impact/271/>.
 - *Frontline Initiative: Social Capital* (Volume 12, Number 1, May 2014). Published by the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals and the Institute's Research and Training Center on Community Living. Available on the Web at http://ici.umn.edu/products/Frontline_Initiative/FI_12_1.pdf.
- **ICI Projects/Centers on Facebook.** A growing number of ICI projects and centers have their own Facebook pages where they offer a rich variety of information. They include:
 - Check & Connect at <https://www.facebook.com>, enter "Check & Connect."
 - Self Advocacy Online at <https://www.facebook.com/SelfAdvocacyOnline>.
 - Research and Training Center on Community Living at <https://www.facebook.com/RTCCL>.
 - DirectCourse at <https://www.facebook.com/DirectCourseOnline>.
 - Quality Mall at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Quality-Mall/128323367237894>.
- **Autism Report Among Top Picks.** The Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC) selected RTC's *Minneapolis Somali Autism Spectrum Disorder Prevalence Project: Community Report 2013* as one of its top 20 picks for the most significant studies in autism research in 2013. FFI, visit <http://iacc.hhs.gov/summary-advances/2013/SummaryofAdvances-2013.pdf>, and look under Question 7.
- **FYI Deadline.** Items for the next FYI should be submitted to Tom (donag003@umn.edu) by June 9.