

# FYI

Staff Update • Institute on Community Integration  
College of Education and Human Development •  
University of Minnesota

September 18, 1997

## A Message from the New ICI Director

I am very pleased and excited about my transition into the role of Institute on Community Integration (ICI) Director. I am certainly no stranger to many of you, having been here since the inception of ICI in 1985. For those of you I have not had the chance to meet, I look forward to future opportunities to work directly with you. My door is open, and I invite you to stop by to talk about your ideas.

The Institute on Community Integration has, in its short history, become recognized by the citizens of Minnesota, as well as national groups and organizations, for its capacity to positively impact public policies, programs, and practices for persons with disabilities and their families. We should all acknowledge and take pride in this accomplishment. It is upon this foundation of established and exemplary research, training, and outreach programs that I assume the role of Director. I regard ICI as an organization of many leaders. This is evidenced in its expansive program initiatives in early childhood education, school-age services, transition services, and adult services, as well as in its highly regarded publications that reach national and international audiences. I believe my primary role is to recognize, support, and promote this leadership within the College, University, state, and nation.

In addition to serving as the ICI Director, I will also devote a portion of my time to working within the Department of Educational Policy and Administration as an associate professor. In this capacity, I will be advising students, developing and teaching courses, and serving on several departmental and college-wide committees. My area of teaching emphasis concerns the administration and management of public school programs for students with disabilities and other at-risk groups. I will also have a reduced but still active role in maintaining ICI's focus on transition and school-to-work services for youth with disabilities. I believe it's going to be a busy and challenging first year.

This fall and hopefully into 1998, I want to conduct a series of forums intended to give ICI students, staff, and faculty opportunities to connect. Through these Pizza Forums, I hope to provide an opportunity for giving input, sharing information about what's going on, and celebrating and acknowledging the work we all do. The first three of these forums will be held on October 10, November 14, and December 12. Notices concerning time and location will follow. Also on our agenda is ICI's annual fall kickoff. This event is scheduled for October 29, so please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

On a final note, I just wanted to thank Scott McConnell for his dedication and commitment to the Institute, and its students, staff, and faculty over the past six years. I look forward to working with Scott on several ICI program initiatives. I have valued and appreciated his leadership.

David R. Johnson

## Staff Update

- **Staff Arrivals:** Brenda Butler, Student Secretary for Administration; David Stephan, Student Secretary for the National Transition Network; Darnell Logan, Community Program Associate for the Persistence Plus Project; Alissa Huntoon and Leanne Watrin Walter, Community Program Associates for the Dakota County Elementary Project; Stacy Kosciolk, GRA for the All Means All Project; Stephany Brewer-Jiles, GRA for the Behavioral Momentum Project; Lynne Havsy and Donna Patterson, GRAs for the Dakota County Elementary Project; Heidi Johnson and James Newman, GRAs for the RRTC; Deborah Osborn and Gina Rodriguez, GRAs for the ECRI K-3 Project; Kathleen Robinson, GRA for the Persistence Plus Project; Sara Weisser, GRA for ECRI. **Staff Departures:** Sue Rampi, Kathy Burkholder, Michele Scheib, Stacy George.
- Ruth Berman has published her book, *Dear Poppa: The World War II Berman Family Letters*, through the Minnesota Historical Society Press.
- Bob Prouty was a speaker and panelist at the Association of Residential Resources in Minnesota (AARM) State Leadership Conference on September 9.

## Dates to Remember . . .

- **September 22:** Brown Bag Lunch & Learn, noon-1:00, 118 Pattee
- **October 10:** Pizza Forum, time and location to be announced

## Miscellaneous

- **Campaign for Freedom.** Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) met in Racine, Wisconsin in July to provide training and support to four state self-advocacy organizations who want to develop a statewide strategic plan to close institutions. Speakers addressed issues that included the current status of institutions in each state and at the national level, coalition building, direct action strategies, legal action strategies, legislative strategies, and the mechanics of developing a strategic plan. In attendance was Mary Hayden who provided technical assistance in organizing each state team through developing a strategic plan for direct action. This conference was part of SABE's national initiative, Campaign for Freedom: Close the Doors to Institutions. Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered has a new address: P.O. Box 15165, Loves Park, IL, 61132.
- **Brown Bag Lunch & Learn.** An overview of the Parent Case Management for People of Color Project will be presented by Marijo McBride and Matt Ziegler from ARC Hennepin County on Monday, September 22, 12:00-1:00, in room 118 Pattee. The focus of this seminar will be on how the project supports diversity and family empowerment.
- **Call for Presentation Proposals.** The Brain Injury Association of Minnesota is seeking proposals from individuals or groups for presentations at its Thirteenth Annual Conference on May 2, 1998 at the Earle Brown Educational Center. Presentations that are appropriate for an audience of survivors and/or families will receive priority. The deadline for proposal submissions is October 15, 1997. For more information, contact the Brain Injury Association of Minnesota at 378-2742.
- **Call for Papers.** The Research and Training Center for Children's Mental Health is now accepting applications to present at their 11th Annual Research Conference on Children's Mental Health Service Systems, held on March 8-11, 1998 at the Hyatt Regency Westshore in Tampa, Florida. Organizers are looking for paper presentations that contribute to the research base for systems of care for children with emotional and/or behavioral disabilities and their families. The deadline for proposal submissions is October 24, 1997. For more information, contact Lyn Bryan at (813) 974-4649 or Maria Peas at (813) 974-4661.
- **Call for Art.** Courage Cards and Gifts invites artists and creative writers to submit works for consideration in the 1998 Courage Collection. The Art Search Committee is interested in colorful and unique holiday images, as well as Thanksgiving, multiethnic, and all occasion images. The Creative Writing Committee is looking for short motivational and inspirational messages that may be used on a Courage Card or Gift. In addition to nationwide publicity for their involvement with the program, selected artists will receive a \$350 honorarium and selected writers will receive a \$75 honorarium. Entries by artists and writers with disabilities are especially encouraged. Courage Cards and Gifts are produced from original art and are sold to benefit the programs and services of Courage Center. The deadline for all entries is December 1, 1997. For a copy of the search guidelines and application, call Courage Cards and Gifts at 520-0211.
- **Birthdays.** Ellen Blake (9/17); Stacey Sventek (9/17); Traci Schmidtke (9/21); John Rynders (9/21); Holly Schneider (9/23); Stephanie Langseth (9/25); Jennifer York-Barr (9/26); Kathie Wolff (10/7); Kathleen Lenk (10/9); Mary Hayden (10/9); Michele Gaddy (10/13); Colleen Caibel (10/14).

## Bits and Pieces

*Information from the Institute's Research and Technology Consulting Group (RTCG, 110 Pattee, 624-7337) and the Publications Office (109 Pattee, 624-4512).*

### • New Publications

*Lessons for Understanding.* By Terri Vandercook, Laura Medwetz, Jo Montie, Pam Taylor, and Kurtis Scaletta.

This curriculum was developed to increase the understanding of personal perspectives and the appreciation of other's perspectives. Many of the lessons are based on children's literature.

*A Longitudinal Study of Turnover Among Newly Hired Residential Direct Support Workers in Small Community Homes Serving People with Developmental Disabilities.* By Sherri Larson and Charlie Lakin.

This report studies variables associated with facility level turnover, as well as individual and job-related factors associated with turnover decisions.

## From the Front Office

*News from ICI's Administrative Staff*

- **Fall Kick-Off.** This year's fall kick-off is scheduled for Wednesday, October 29, 10:00-1:00, in Coffman Memorial Union.
- **P&A Reminder.** Academic Vacation Records for the quarter (July, August, September) are due to Beth Nelson.
- **Hiring Reminder.** Please make sure your new hires contact Beth Nelson for an appointment to be set up on payroll.
- **GRA Handbooks.** The new GRA handbooks should be available from the Graduate Assistant's Office (200 Donhowe Building) or from Beth Nelson in 102 Pattee within the next few weeks.