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Duluth -- An eight-week NDEA Institute on Reading for first and second grade teachers from Northern Minnesota, Northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan will be held at the University of Minnesota, Duluth (UMD) June 13-Aug. 5.

The institute is funded by the U.S. Office of Education under terms of the National Defense Education Act, according to Dr. Vernon L. Simula, assistant professor of elementary education and institute director at UMD.

A similar institute will be held at the same time at the University's Morris campus under the direction of Dr. E. Louise Curtis, associate professor of education at UMM.

Sixty primary grade teachers will be paid a stipend to attend the institutes. Dr. Simula said applications will be received from "teams" of teachers from individual school systems--possibly two first grade teachers, two second grade teachers, or a first and second grade teacher.

"It has long been known that it is most important that a child in the primary grades learn to read well and to have a positive attitude about reading," Dr. Simula said. "We hope to be able to acquaint participating teachers with the latest in instructional techniques and materials so that they, themselves, can do a better job of teaching reading. And we believe the team approach will help them initiate necessary curriculum changes within their local school systems."

Dr. Simula noted that the institutes will pay particular attention to the physiological, personality and language characteristics of the primary school child.

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Three guest lecturers will appear at both the UMD and Morris institutes from the fields of reading, physiology, personality, linguistics and children's literature.

Assisting Dr. Simula at the UMD institute will be Mrs. Verna V. Norha, instructor and first grade supervisor at the UMD Laboratory School; Robert M. Higgins, instructor and third grade supervisor at the UMD Laboratory School; and a third person still to be announced.

Area primary teachers interested in the UMD institute should contact Dr. Simula for information and application forms.