

Immediate Release

UMD News Service
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Duluth-- A \$257,351 continuation grant from the U.S. Office of Education to the Research and Development Council of Northeast Minnesota (RAND) has been announced by Congressman John A. Blatnik.

Funds will be used to continue projects begun last year by the RAND Supplementary Educational Services Center located on the lower UMD campus. The Center was started last year under a similar grant to provide leadership in promoting exemplary school programs and exploring new teaching techniques and materials.

"News of the continuation grant for the RAND Council is extremely gratifying," said Dr. L. V. Rasmussen, President of the Council and superintendent of Duluth schools. He added, "The various in-service projects begun by RAND have been a stimulus toward quality education in Northeast Minnesota."

Members of the RAND Council are 38 Northeast Minnesota public school districts and the schools of the Catholic diocese of Duluth. It is estimated that the combined population of the schools exceeds 95,000 pupils and 4,300 teachers.

Dr. Wesley T. Shepard, RAND executive secretary, stated that the Center will begin projects to develop a mobile classroom, extend the driver's training project and expand the current in-service programs supplied to member schools.

Shepard also listed a number of programs that will be continued with the help of the latest grant:

*Provision of psychological testing and other services to Northeast Minnesota schools.

*Area-wide in-service programs using consultants in various disciplines, plus providing materials, workshops and clinics for teachers, administrators and school board members.

(more)

RAND Continuation Grant--2

*Development of curriculum evaluation programs in school districts with the use of RAND personnel.

*Initiation of pilot projects such as the computer-assisted instruction at Cook County.

*Workshops such as the driver training, sensitivity training, reading and team teaching internship, all offered during the last year.

*Five-district instructional media project to determine if school districts can engage in a cooperative effort to share instructional media.

*Feasibility study of a data processing center that would serve the RAND schools.