

ICI Program Helps Students with Disabilities Meet Graduation Standards

As Minnesota has begun the task of implementing programs to ensure that students meet the new Graduation High Standards, questions have arisen as to how students with disabilities will fit into this new framework. Starting in January of 1998, the Institute on Community Integration, in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Children Families and Learning, began offering training for general and special education teams through a project called *Accommodating the Learning of Students with Disabilities Through Performance Standards (APS)*.

This school year, under the new name of CAPS (*Collaborating to Accommodate Performance Standards*), the Institute on Community Integration's Lynn Walz has led a group of eight training teams in designing CAPS; these training teams consist of teachers who have experience in working collaboratively to create accommodations that result in all students (including students with disabilities) being able to demonstrate the Minnesota Graduation High Standards.

Under this one-year, \$38,400 project, teams of teachers will receive training and be provided work time to create accommodations for students to support achievement of the Minnesota Graduation High Standards. Over the past year, teams of educators have collaborated to create this training program. General educators have contributed information about the content standard and classroom practices, and special educators have contributed information about the learning needs of students with disabilities. Together, the team has created accommodations.

CAPS training is designed to address such areas as clearly defining critical terms, distinguishing between the terms *accommodations* and *modifications*, and understanding the key points of IDEA and how those points apply to the Minnesota Graduation High Standards. Through its emphasis on collaboration, the training session has resulted in a better understanding of students' learning needs, which can then be used to help teachers select and develop accommodations to use in the classroom.

The Minnesota Department of Children Families and Learning is providing financial support for the 66 days of training that will be occurring throughout the state. For more information about this project, please contact the Project Coordinator, Lynn Walz, at 626-7233.

Staff Update

- **Staff Arrivals:** Kris Schoeller, Coordinator for the SSI grant; Carrie Sword, Coordinator for NTA.
- **Staff Departures:** MeeAe Kim, Research Assistant for NTA; Stacy Kosciolk (McGill), GRA for the All Means All School-to-Work and Transition Assistance Projects.
- **Ruth Berman's** article, "No Joe Marches," was published in the December 1998 issue of *Children's Literature in Education*. The article examines the absence of books for boys about growing up as writers, compared to the wealth of such books for girls.
- **Kurtis Scaletta** is teaching a class this winter at Art Institute International – Minnesota called *Information Design and Presentation Authoring*.
- **Miguel Angel Verdugo Alonso** from the University of Salamanca (Spain) UAP will be visiting ICI from Feb. 9-11. While here, he will meet with ICI staff and visit community sites. Contact Kathie Wolff (624-2380) if you would like to participate in the visit or would like further information.
- **Pam Stenhjem** facilitated a day-long preconference session, called *Collaborative School-to-Work and Transition Programs: It Can Happen!*, on January 12 at the Louisiana Statewide Transition Conference. The pre-conference guided school-to-work and transition services personnel, as well as students and parents, through a day-long, step-by-step brainstorming and action planning session.

Dates to Remember . . .

- **Jan. 25: Program Area Information Session, Transition and Adult-Community Services**, 12:15-1:15, 48 Peik Hall.
- **Jan. 29: Pizza Forum**, 12-1 pm, 118 Pattee Hall.
- **Feb. 10: Public Policy Forum**, 10:15-11:45 am, Roseville Library.
- **Feb. 10: Web Publishing Information Session**, 1-2:30 pm, 48 Peik Hall.

Bits & Pieces

Information from the Institute's Web Coordination Group (110 Pattee, 6-8649) and Publications Office (109 Pattee, 4-4512).

ICI Web Policies, Web Group Activities

- **Got Your Handbook?** The newly published handbook, *Institute Web Publishing Guidelines, Procedures, and Policies*, was distributed to all ICI staff on January 8. The guide includes information to assist principal investigators who want to include Web sites in their grant proposals, descriptions of the steps and resources involved in Web site creation, and the policies that apply to all ICI Web sites. The policies are effective January 15, 1999. If you still need a copy, contact Mike Vosika in the Publications Office at 624-4512. The handbook was developed by the ICI Web Coordination Group.
- **Web Publishing Info Session.** To find out more about the new ICI Web procedures, guidelines, and policies, you can attend an information session on February 10 from 1-2:30 pm at 48 Peik Hall. Learn about the Web publishing process, staff available to help with your project Web site, and current ICI project activities on the Web. Treats provided!
- **Web Site Reconstruction.** Members of the ICI Web Coordination Group are now beginning the process of revising the ICI Web site. Initial activities include creating a communications plan, researching related sites for successful models, and soliciting stakeholder input. Following these activities will be the actual redesign of the site, to be completed by this summer. If you have any questions, contact Megan Dushin at 626-8649.

Publications Office Freebies, FYI

- **Purchase Order Template:** If you use purchase orders frequently (using the good old-fashioned typewriter), you may be interested in the computer template that the Publications Office has developed. The two catches are: 1) the file is in FileMaker Pro and 2) you need a dot matrix printer. Call Mike Vosika at 624-4512 for more information.
- **Free Publications.** The Publications Office has an abundance of the following materials. Please think of ways to use them in your training and presentation activities. Contact Mike Vosika in the Publications Office (624-4512) with questions about these or any other publications.
 - *Inclusive Education for Learners with Disabilities: Print and Media Resources (1995)*
 - *Self Advocacy: Print and Media Resources (1995)*
 - *Making Friends: Using Recreation Activities to Promote Friendship Between Children With and Without Disabilities (1993)*
 - *Communities of Vision and Action: Systems Change Through Minnesota's CTICs (1997)*
 - *Impact: Inclusive Recreation and Families (Fall 1996)*
 - *Impact: Supported Living (Fall 1995)*
 - *Impact: Health Needs of Transition-Aged Youth (Fall 1994)*
 - *Impact: Family Support (Summer 1990)*
 - *Impact: Self-Advocacy (Winter 1991)*
 - *Policy Research Brief: Persons with Mental Retardation and Related Conditions in State Institutions: Trends and Projections (1993)*
 - *Policy Research Brief: Evaluating the Effectiveness/Efficiency of Supported Employment (1993)*
- **New Publication.** ICI Publications Catalog (Dec. 98 - Mar. 99 edition).
- **FYI Deadline.** The deadline for the next *FYI* is Thursday, February 11. If you have a submission for *FYI*, sent it to Mike Vosika in 109 Pattee Hall or at vosik003@tc.umn.edu.

From the Front Office

News from ICI's Administrative Staff

- **Attention PI's and Coordinators.** ADD Semi-Annual Report worksheets are due to Kathie Wolff by January 21. The report must be mailed to Washington D.C. by January 29.
- **New Policy for Federal Express.** Effective January 4, all staff making FedEx shipments should follow these steps:
 - 1) Before 3:30 each day, place your package in the bin labeled "Federal Express" near the front entrance of the building. Shannon will call FedEx every day at 3:30 for any packages that are ready.
 - 2) After 3:30, you must call yourself. For your reference, FedEx can be called until 6:00 pm. Please remember to bring your package down *before* calling for a pickup, since FedEx is often here within minutes after your call.
 - 3) All FedEx packages *must* have the CUFS number on the internal billing line. If this is not done, Shannon will hold the package until someone can be reached to provide the CUFS number.

Miscellaneous

- **Publish and Flourish.** A new resource for educators who need and want to be published, is now available from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). This informative book is designed to help practitioners, professors, grant writers, and undergraduate and graduate students better express themselves and understand the ins and outs of education publishing. To order, call 888/232-7733.
- **Birthdays.** Heidi Springborg (1/21), Mitchell Madson (1/23), Susan O'Neil (1/30), Nichole Fox (2/2), Allison Shiu (2/6), Patricia Merrill (2/10), Lynda Anderson (2/11).