

August 14, 1998

## ICI Works with Fond du Lac College to Educate American Indian Students

Few postsecondary education and training programs effectively reach American Indian students. Many barriers exist which place American Indians "at risk" in educational and employment settings. As a means of addressing these issues, Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, with support and collaboration from the Institute on Community Integration (ICI) and the University's Department of Work, Community and Family Education, has taken a bold step toward addressing one particular employment area to which American Indians have rarely been exposed as customers or employees/employers. That career area is financial services, which includes such jobs as loan officers, real estate brokers, bankers, bank tellers, and small business entrepreneurs.

Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College (FDLTCC) has been awarded a five-year, \$1,376,574 Title III Grant from the US Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education, to begin a project addressing the need to open this career area to American Indian students. Jean Ness from ICI and James R. Brown from Work, Community and Family Education coauthored the grant and will serve, respectively, as Project Director and Project Investigator.

The focus of this project, which begins October 1, will be to develop a two-year Financial Services program with "stop out" certificate options at FDLTCC; the program will maintain sensitivity to American Indian culture in all activities. To support this endeavor, a vital partnership between the American Indian community and the business/college community will be essential. A strong focus will be placed on developing a student services component at FDLTCC that will not only provide support in the academic program, but also in the recruitment, retention, placement, and follow-up of students who complete training. Another component of the project will be to develop inservice training for FDLTCC faculty and staff so they will be able to better meet the needs of students who learn in many different styles as a means to support and enhance the retention of students with classroom accommodations and modifications. As the Financial Services program development takes shape, FDLTCC faculty will deliver the culturally designed courses over distance learning (interactive television) to other tribal colleges in the nation so they too can have access to the training. The eventual goal of the project is to build the infrastructure at FDLTCC to sustain a Financial Services program model.

ICI's involvement in the project is as a subcontractor participating in the development of the curriculum; overall coordination of the project; development of recruitment, retention, placement, and follow-up systems; and project evaluation. ICI's participation came about through the strong relationship established with FDLTCC during the Circle of Learning project that has supported transition planning for American Indian students on and around the Fond du Lac Reservation.

For further information, contact Project Director Jean Ness at 627-4179.

## Staff Update

- **New staff:** **Jolana Bernhardt**, Graduate Assistant for the School to Work Outreach project; **Jennifer Sartorius**, Student Data Entry Specialist for the Cognitive Intervention Project; **Yvette Giles**, Student Secretary for the Publications Office.
- **Departing staff:** **Linda Heyne** has accepted a teaching position at Ithaca College, Ithaca, New York; **Stacy Sventek** has accepted an internship in the finance industry; **Paul Bernhardt** has accepted a support staff position in the Department of Medicine, Dermatology and Neurology; **Angie Hilo** has been accepted into dental school.
- **Brian Abery** has been awarded a three-year, \$139,999 grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration, for a new project titled *Enhancing the Recreation Inclusion of Young Adults with Disabilities*.
- ICI has received a one-year, \$38,480 contract from the Minnesota Department of Children, Families, and Learning, for the new project titled *Building Collaborative Classrooms and Accommodating Adaptations for Performance Standards*. **Lynn Walz** will coordinate the project.
- **Pam Stenhjem** presented on including all learners in school-to-work at the State Superintendent Conference, August 12.

## Dates to Remember . . .

- Tuesday, August 18: **Institute Council Meeting**. 1-2 pm
- Friday, August 21: **ICI Pizza Forum**. Noon. 118 Pattee

## From the Front Office

News from ICI's Administrative Staff

- **Fall GRA Appointments.** Program Area Coordinators and Supervisors should watch for a memo from Beth Nelson requesting information on GRAs continuing into the fall, new GRA hires, terminations, etc.
- **Thanks for the Support.** Thanks to Angie Hilo, Jon Schmidt, and Jessica Tran, student secretaries, for their team efforts in providing front desk coverage in 102 during this staff transition period.
- **ICI Council Update.** At the July 20th meeting, topics discussed included the College P & A staffing guidelines, ICI space needs and the prospects for renovating the Pattee Hall basement, ICI interdisciplinary training priorities, and the fall council retreat and fall staff retreat. Complete minutes are available from Laura Gardzelewski in 102 Pattee.

## Miscellaneous

- **Accessible Congregations Campaign.** The Accessible Congregations Campaign seeks the commitment of 2000 communities of faith by the year 2000 to include people with all types of disabilities as full and active participants in congregations. FFI contact Vicki Gaylord (624-6347) for a copy of their brochure.
- **AAMR Call for Papers.** The 1999 AAMR Annual Meeting, Visions for the New Millennium, has issued a call for papers. The deadline for proposals is September 15. FFI contact Vicki Gaylord (624-6347) for a copy of the guidelines.
- **Training Announcements.** If you receive announcements about training events that may be of interest to direct support professionals, please give the information to Kurtis Scaletta (204 Pattee, 624-1349) to be posted on the Direct Support Professionals Website.
- **Beacons of Excellence Project Seeks Nominations.** ICI's Beacons of Excellence Project is working to increase understanding of how schools can improve learning results for students with disabilities. The project is identifying and studying secondary schools that are achieving exemplary learning results for students with disabilities in the context of efforts to achieve exemplary results for all students. Currently, the project is accepting school nominations; selected schools will then participate in an 18-24 month study. The nomination deadline is September 17. FFI contact Tom Bartholomay, 111 Pattee, 624-5776.
- **Special Ed. Directory.** Anyone desiring a copy of the current Minnesota Directors of Special Education Directory (compiled by the Department of Children, Families and Learning) should contact Kathie Wolff, 624-2380.
- **Birthdays.** Bob Prouty (8/15); Jessica Tran (8/15); Hyun-Jeong Park (8/16); Sandy Christenson (8/19); Martha Thurlow (8/19); Ann Eggebeen (8/24); Jeff Priest (8/24); Judy Bartlett (8/25); Sun-Young Lee (8/26); Ben Silbergliitt (8/31); Rosann Cahill (9/1); Samuel S. Wayne II (9/6); Peter Aleshire (9/7); Michelle Leurs (9/11); Stephanie McNeil (9/14).

## Bits & Pieces

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

- **Web Group Update**
- **July Activities.** ICI's Web Coordination Group met in July to continue revising the ICI Web use policies and procedures for ICI Web sites. Included in the discussion was exploration of guidelines for ensuring accessibility of sites for persons with visual impairments. FFI contact ICI Web Coordinator Megan Dushin at 626-8649.
- **Search Continues, Ample Publications**
- **Short-Staffed.** The search continues for a new office manager/editorial assistant for the Publications Office. If you know of anyone who may be interested in a position that is 50% office manager and 50% editing/layout, contact Vicki Gaylord for a description.
- **New Staff.** Publication's new Student Secretary, Yvette Giles, is here from 10-2 daily to help with your requests for materials.
- **Can You Use Us?** There are a few publications that are stored in large quantities in the Publications store-rooms. They'd be better used elsewhere. Can you think of any workshops or presentations at which you could distribute the following:
  - Collaborative Teamwork: Working Together for Full Inclusion* (brochure)
  - Yes I Can Curriculum Description* (brochure)
  - ICI Dropout Prevention Publications (brochure)
  - Why Service Staff Support Self-Determination for Adults with Disabilities* (brochure)