

December 16, 2005

New Progress Monitoring Project at ICI

How can children's progress toward school-readiness and academic goals be measured in a seamless manner from preschool through elementary years for students in both special and regular education? That question has become pertinent as recent federal laws, such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the No Child Left Behind Act, require all students, including students with disabilities, to demonstrate success within the general education curriculum. To help answer that question, the Institute has received a three-year, \$1.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, for a new project, Demonstrating Progress Monitoring for Early Identification, Accountability and Success (DPM).

The project, a partnership with the Minneapolis Public Schools, begins January 1, 2006 and focuses on early education and reading. "We are very excited about this project and its potential impact on reading performance and growth of young children," said Teri Wallace, DPM Principal Investigator. "There is a great deal of important work within our College that addresses reading development, instruction and assessment and we will connect with and learn from those colleagues as we move forward. Additionally, working with the expertise and long-term commitment of our partners in Minneapolis Public Schools, including Drs. David Heistad, Doug Marston, Ann Casey and others, we know this project will truly benefit kids, teachers, and parents."

DPM's goal is a system that monitors the progress of children who are struggling with readiness skills in the critical years from preschool to elementary school, with evidence-based interventions and services put in place to ensure their success. The project will develop, implement, and evaluate a progress-monitoring model that incorporates the use of:

- Scientifically-based research related to progress monitoring using CBM.
- Class-wide progress monitoring systems for all students (age three to grade 4) in regular and special education classrooms for instructional decision-making.
- Progress monitoring for accountability in special education.

Progress monitoring is a research-based practice used to assess students' academic performance and evaluate the effectiveness of instruction. Curriculum-based measurement (CBM) is a form of progress monitoring that consists of a simple set of procedures for repeated measurement of student growth toward an instructional goal. Pioneered at the University of Minnesota by Stan Deno, 30 years of research has documented CBM's technical adequacy, impact on performance, use in instructional and educational decision-making, and role in screening for program placement and in determining eligibility. The Institute's Research Institute on Progress Monitoring (RIPM) is in the process of developing K-12 measures including early literacy measures that extend to preschoolers, and the new project continues to build on this work and that of the University's Center for Early Education and Development (CEED), a partner in DPM.

The model being developed by DPM will be implemented in three sites within Minneapolis Public Schools, each including an elementary school and at least one preschool setting linked to it. DPM will support the sustainability of the new progress monitoring model linking preschools and elementary schools, which has not been done in Minneapolis.

FFI about this project, contact Teri at walla001@umn.edu or (612) 626-7220.

Staff Update

- **Staff Hire:** Seungsoo Yeo, GRA, RIPM. **Staff Departures:** Cynthia Jiban, GRA, RIPM; and Jason Wolff, GRA, RIPM.
- **Pat Salmi** presented "Are We Designing Buildings that Everyone Can Navigate? Wayfinding Design for Varied Capabilities" at the American Institute of Architects' Minnesota convention in Minneapolis, November 18.
- **Pam Stenhjem** presented "National Service: An Appealing Option for Youth in Transition" and "What Does Successful Disability Inclusion Look Like in the K Through 12 Service Learning Communities?" at the National Conference on Disability, Inclusion and National Service: A Meaningful Place for All, in Alexandria, Virginia, December 7-9. In another development, she was elected to the University Senate; her three-year term began this fall.
- **Jen Huisken, Dennis Olson, Lynn LaPointe, Jen Fair, Patricia Merrill, and Jean Ness** of ICI's Expanding the Circle staff held a transition conference for American Indian high school students from all project and reservation sites in Minnesota on December 2. Sixty-six students and their sponsors attended the event in St. Paul.

Dates to Remember...

- **December 23: University Closed**
- **December 26: University Closed**
- **January 2: University Closed**
- **January 9: ICI Council, 10-11:30, 118 Pattee Hall**

From the Front Office

News from ICI's Administrative Staff

- **ICI Council Retreat.** The Institute Council, as well as additional ICI Principal Investigators and Research Associates, met December 5 at the McNamara Alumni Center for a yearly planning meeting addressing national and state trends affecting Institute work, new opportunities for ICI (new priorities at federal and state levels, new ways of doing business, new partnerships), and next steps for ICI as an organization as we continue fulfilling our mission in a manner that's responsive to emerging trends and needs. The group will come together again in six months to review activities that emerged as a result of the meeting.
- **Timecard Employees and Their Supervisors.** Due to the coming holidays, the timecard for the pay period 12/12/05-12/25/05 will need to be turned in Thursday, December 22. Remember to indicate your hours for holiday pay if you are normally scheduled to work Friday, December 23 or Monday, December 26.

Miscellaneous

- **Conference.** The 2006 Minnesota CEC/CCBD Special Education Conference, Bright IDEAS... Implementing the New IDEA, will be held February 15-17 in Rochester, Minnesota. FFI visit <http://65.61.26.59/mncec/conference.html>.
- **Grants Web Site.** Grantsalert.com helps educators and other stakeholders at the K-12 level find resources to benefit students and schools. The Web site monitors federal, state, private, foundation, and corporate Web sites across the country to find announcements for funding opportunities. New listings are posted each day and all information is provided free to the public. FFI visit <http://www.grantsalert.com>.
- **Arc Merger.** Arc Great Rivers and Arc Hennepin-Carver members voted

Questions? Call Amy at 4-2380. Timecards for 2006 will be distributed soon.

- **P&A Staff.** Professional and Administrative staff vacation records for November and December are due December 30. All records for 2005 will be closed out 12/31/05 so please make sure your forms are turned in as close to the end of December as possible. Also a reminder that when recording days taken, that time must be recorded in "half-day" or "whole-day" increments only. Questions? Call Beth at 6-8042.
- **Key Inventory and Staff Information Update.** If you haven't already done so, please give your key/address information form to 102 Pattee Hall.
- **Mileage Rate Change.** Effective January 1, 2006, mileage allowance for personal vehicle use on approved University business decreases from 48.5 cents to 44.5 cents per mile. The standard mileage rate for moving expenses drops from 22 cents to 18 cents per mile.

December 8 to merge into one Arc chapter serving the seven-county metropolitan area. The two nonprofit organizations, which have collaborated over the years, will officially become Arc Greater Twin Cities January 1, 2006. The combined organization will continue Arc's commitment to help people with disabilities realize their goals of where and how they live, learn, work, and play.

- **Birthdays.** Mary McEathron (12/24), Jane Krentz (12/24), Emily Riha (12/26), Jennifer Fair (12/31), Jon Goldman (1/6), John Westerman (1/7), Pam Stenhjem (1/10), Debbie Hansen (1/14), and Lynn LaPointe (1/16). Did we miss your birthday? Let us know! Call 4-2380 or e-mail kuro0008@umn.edu.

Bits & Pieces

Information from the Institute's Web Development Team (11 Pattee, 6-8649) and Publications Office (109 Pattee, 4-4512)

- **New Publications.** The following new Institute publications are available:
 - *2005 State Special Education Outcomes: Steps Forward in a Decade of Change* (November 2005). Published by the Institute's National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO) and available at <http://education.umn.edu/nceo>.
 - *NCSET Essential Tool: Cultural and Linguistic Diversity: Implications for Transition Personnel* (October 2005). Published by the Institute's National Center on Secondary Education and Transition (NCSET) and available at <http://www.ncset.org/publications>.
- **ICI's Web Sites.** There is a useful new leaflet to bring your next conference or meeting: *Institute on Community Integration Web Sites*. The leaflet lists and describes ICI's 20 Web sites, plus early childhood service Web sites maintained by the Center for Early Education and Development (CEED). The leaflet is available in the Publications Office.
- **ICI in MS-DOS.** Here is another useful new resource to bring your next conference or meeting: a compact disc, encoded in MS-DOS, containing ICI's product catalog, brochure, and Web card. This alternative format listing of ICI's products and services is useful for people who are visually impaired and is available in the Publications Office.
- **ICI Listserv.** The Publications Office sends out a monthly listserv notice to subscribers around the country highlighting new ICI publications, projects, Web sites, and training and consultation services. If you have items for it, contact Amy Dupont at dupo0013@umn.edu or 4-4512. To subscribe, go to <http://ici.umn.edu/subscribe.html>.
- **FYI Deadline.** Items for the next *FYI* should be submitted to Tom in 109 Pattee Hall or e-mailed to donag003@umn.edu by Tuesday, January 10, 2006.