

# FYI

Staff Update • Institute on Community Integration  
College of Education • University of Minnesota

October 15, 1993

## Hundreds Attend Latest ICI Conferences

In recent months the Institute on Community Integration has held four very successful conferences addressing five disability-related areas: transition, supported employment, parent/professional collaboration, parent case management, and paraprofessional training. The conferences were attended by a total of nearly 900 people from at least 10 states.

The latest conference was *Regional Perspectives: Exemplary Programs in Region V*, sponsored by the Institute's North Central Regional Information Exchange. The two-day conference drew 170 participants from 10 states to share information on exemplary programs serving persons with disabilities in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Fifteen organizations gave presentations on their exemplary programs in the areas of transition, supported employment, and parent/professional collaboration. The Institute staff who organized this conference were Teri Wallace (conference director), Nancy Krawetz, Jean Ness, and Dave Johnson.

Back-to-back with the NCRIE conference was *CTICs in Action*, the third annual conference of Minnesota's Community Transition Interagency Committees. Held September 29, this conference drew 200 people, with representatives from 60 out of Minnesota's 75 CTICs (the highest representation since the conferences began). Forty-five presenters from throughout the state shared their experiences and expertise in over 40 sessions focusing on issues, strategies, and experiences in the area of transition of students with disabilities from high school to adult community living. *CTICs in Action* was cosponsored by the Institute, the Interagency Office on Transition Services in the Minnesota Department of Education, and the State Transition Interagency Committee.

In mid-September, the third conference, the *Renewal Conference for Parent Case Management*, was held. It drew 29 alumni from the Parent Case Management Training Program for an additional time of learning and networking. During this one-day event at Dakota County Technical College, persons from throughout Minnesota who had participated in the program during the past six years received updates on legislation and new developments for persons with disabilities and their families, along with information on facilitated communication. The event was coordinated by Marijo McBride from the Institute, and cosponsored by the Institute and the Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities.

The fourth conference was a sell-out with over 500 participants and nearly 300 individuals turned away for lack of space. It was the second statewide ...A *Critical Link* conference held in Hutchinson in May. This conference provided paraprofessionals serving persons with disabilities with an opportunity to learn strategies for use in their jobs, and to renew their energy and commitment to their work. The conference was an interagency effort involving time, input, and funding from the Minnesota Departments of Education, Health, Human Services, and Jobs and Training; Minnesota Federation of Teachers; Minnesota Education Association; Hutchinson and Hennepin Technical Colleges; public school teachers and paraprofessionals; adult service staff; and the Institute. The Institute's Teri Wallace was conference director, with assistance from Laura McGlasson.

## Staff Update

### The latest staff arrivals/shifts include:

- Michael Moore, Publications Secretary.
- Anne Thayer Fisher, Secretary in 111.
- Amy Heywitt, Coordinator for the ADD Training Grant.
- Jo Montie, Coordinator for the Shared Responsibility Grant.
- Bob Prouty, Researcher on the National Research Information Systems project.

### New Research Assistants are:

- Janet Bast and David Fee, ADD Training Grant.
- Sam Cherif and Kimberly Kissell, National Transition Network.
- Chandra Cooper and Christina Sherani, ECRI.
- Nicole Dzik, Prenatal Cocaine Exposure project.
- Beverly El-Afandi, Family Support Services project.
- Brenda Fijas and Evajane Koeper, RRTC.
- Carol Freeman, EBD Grant.
- John Gehar and Stephanie Tousman, NCRIE.
- Wanda Hoppe and Christine Hurley, Dropout Prevention project.
- Michele Huber, Susan Moses Zirkes, and Laura Schauben, Self Determination project.
- Wanda Hoppe and C.J. Thomas, Behavioral Momentum grant.
- Deborah Johnson, Little SIPS project.
- Shirley Kiu, IHE grant.
- Jim Mitchell, Shared Responsibility project.
- Rebecca Jo Smith, Inservice Training Grant.

## Dates to Remember . . .

- NOW. Quarterly Reports Due.
- October 25. Institute Council Meeting. 11-1, 118 Pattee.

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## From the Front Office

*News from ICI's Administrative Staff*

- **Subcontracts.** If you are setting up new subcontracts for fall, please let Traci know. She will need a workscope and a contact person for the subcontract.
- **Technical Assistance and Training Update.** The annual report of ICI activities (based on quarterly report data) has revealed that we provided a total of 8,948 hours of technical assistance to community collaborators, state agencies, and service providers during the past year. Over 11,000 individuals attended continuing education workshops and conference presentations given by ICI staff. The full annual report will be in your mailbox within the next 4-6 weeks.
- **Database Improving.** Laura Bloomberg and Mike Williams have been working with the staff in 102 to develop an improved staff database to meet ICI's personnel recordkeeping and staff information needs. You should have received a short form asking you to update the demographic information we currently have on file for you. Please complete the form ASAP and return to the marked box in 102.
- **Quarterly Reports.** These were due October 15. They are no longer turned in to Laura Bloomberg, but instead please turn them in to Mike Williams in the RTCG (mailbox outside 101).
- **Costly Copies.** ICI's copying expenses are rising higher than anticipated. Please help keep it down by 1) Using copiers conservatively and 2) Using the correct project budget number for your copies.
- **Loading Zone Permit.** We now have a special loading zone permit with a 30 minute time limit. If you need it, see Claudia in 102.

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## Miscellaneous

- **A/V Equipment.** If you discover problems with ICI audio visual equipment, please note the problem on the sheet posted on the A/V room door. If you need to check-out equipment, use the equipment book kept by Kay's desk in room 6.
- **Dorothy's Party.** If you did not receive an invitation to Dorothy Peters' 80th birthday party and would like one, please contact Laura Bloomberg (625-0502).
- **Policy Forum Series.** The ICI Policy Forum Series will kick off another year of important discussions on Tuesday, October 19, when Dr. Bengt Nirje will join us to discuss *Normalization, Choice, and Empowerment*. The discussion will be from 11-1 in 204 Pattee. This monthly forum provides a valuable opportunity to discuss and learn more about important issues related to people with developmental disabilities. It is open to all ICI staff, students, affiliated faculty, and friends. For further information contact Sherri Larson at 624-6024.
- **Food Shelf Donations Appreciated.** Thanks to all who contributed to the emergency appeal for food for the St. Joseph's House for Women and Children in Crisis food shelf. We gathered six bags of groceries and \$34.
- **ESAO Seminars.** The Education Student Affairs Office invites students, faculty, staff, and members of the community to attend seminars designed to assist in positive professional development in education. For a schedule, contact the office at 625-6501.
- **Birthdays.** Brian Abery (10/17), Ruth Berman (11/15), Michelle Drews (11/15), Nancy Leffert (11/5), Maryanne Marchel (11/2), Jean Ness (11/14), Randy Starr (11/3), Mike Williams (11/1), Bill Mitchener (11/1), and Tizrah Rowland (11/13).

## Bits & Pieces

*Information from the Institute's Research and Technology Consulting Group (RTCG, 110 Pattee, 4-7337) and the Publications Office (109 Pattee, 4-4512).*

- **Gopher Server**
- **The Institute now has its own Gopher Server!!** - The Gopher system is an international network of information servers. If you have documents, or other information, which you would like to make available for examination and/or downloading to a wide ranging audience, then placing them on the Institute's Gopher server may be for you. To a limited extent you can also set up search functions to permit easier navigation of your documents. Gopher can be accessed through the Internet and also via modem. For further information on how to access Gopher or set up your own folder on the Institute's Gopher Server please contact the RTCG. Mike and Lihui are our current Gopher experts.
- **New Stuff, Business Cards**
- **New Publications.** The latest publications include the resource guide, *Lessons for Inclusion*, a curriculum designed to assist educators in developing caring classroom communities in which all children are valued members; the revised brochure, *Collaborative Teamwork: Working Together for the Inclusion of Students with Disabilities*; a new multi-color, glossy pamphlet, *Regional Information Exchange Program: Finding and Sharing the Best*; the latest *Regional Perspectives* newsletter from our North Central Regional Information Exchange; and the newest *ICI Publications Catalog*.
- **Business Cards.** If you need cards, give an existing card (yours or someone else's), with your correct information written in, to Michael in 109 by 10/22. We'll send a batch order over.