

FYI

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

March 16, 1998

ICI Enhancing Social and Recreational Inclusion

Even though participation in inclusive recreation and leisure programs has been found to improve the recreation skills and sense of belonging of persons with developmental disabilities, as well as correct many misconceptions about individuals with disabilities among peers, few youth and young adults with developmental disabilities actually participate in these types of programs. Common barriers to participation include concern about being accepted by other participants, inadequate transportation, and lack of necessary supports.

The Institute on Community Integration (ICI), in collaboration with disability-related organizations and school districts in six states, has developed a project to enhance the recreation and social inclusion of middle school and high school age youth with developmental disabilities using established recreation and leisure organizations. Enhancing the Social and Recreation Inclusion of Young Adults with Disabilities will train students without disabilities and those with mild disabilities as recreation inclusion facilitators. After successfully completing the period of basic instruction, each student will be paired with an individual with a disability who is in need of support. They will then serve as a "bridgebuilder" for this peer, taking part in recreation experiences based on that person's interests and preferences. By using programs such as 4-H, Scouts, or Parks and Rec, youth and young adults will be exposed to a wider range of social contacts, improving the potential for further social inclusion.

The project will draw on programmatic resources developed at ICI and the related disability organizations in the six states involved in order to conduct a national study of program effectiveness. Over a three-year period, ICI staff will work cooperatively with project personnel from participating states to implement the program in a total of 16 rural and urban communities; train site instructors for the program; provide ongoing technical assistance to communities initiating the program; evaluate the impact of the program on the recreation and social inclusion experienced by participants with developmental disabilities; assess the effect of the program on the attitudes and knowledge students without disabilities possess with respect to their peers with developmental disabilities; evaluate the social validity of the program with all relevant stakeholders; assess its cost-effectiveness; and disseminate information describing the program and its effectiveness to targeted professionals, families, and consumers on a national level.

Enhancing the Social and Recreation Inclusion of Young Adults with Disabilities is funded by a three-year, \$315,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration. For more information on the project, contact project director Brian Aberly at 625-5592.

Staff Update

- **Staff Arrivals:** Laura Harper, Student Secretary for the Paraprofessional Project; Rafael Ortiz, Undergrad Research Assistant for the Cognitive Intervention Project.
- **Correction:** Ellen Emanuel is a Research Associate, not a Research Assistant as announced in the February FYI Staff Update.
- **Beth Nelson** has been asked to serve as a member of the University's Human Resources Management Systems Advisory Council beginning this month. She will represent the College of Education and Human Development.
- **Charlie Lakin, Sherri Larson, Amy Hewitt, and Susan O'Neill** attended the annual conference of the Research and Training Center (RTC) and the American Network of Community Options and Resources held on March 8-10 in Orlando, Florida.
- **Pam Stenjhem** has been elected co-chair of the Minnesota Transition Leadership Committee.
- **Mary Sinclair** has received a \$18,800 grant from the Minneapolis Public Schools to provide technical assistance in the development of a school engagement model to increase student attendance in the Minneapolis Public Schools.

Dates to Remember . . .

- **March 27: Pizza Forum**, 12:00-1:00, 118 Pattee
- **March 30: Permission vs. Forgiving Workshop**, 1:00-2:30, 120 Burton

From the Front Office

News from ICI's Administrative Staff

- **Federal Express.** Starting immediately, please put the appropriate CUFS number on the internal billing line of Federal Express form and then give the sender's copy to Traci or Arly.
- **New Phone Books.** The new 1998-99 Minneapolis White Pages and Yellow Pages will be delivered on Friday, March 27. Please put your old phone books in the foyer of Pattee Hall by that date so they can be recycled.
- **Vacation Records.** Academic vacation records for this quarter (January - March) are due at the end of the month to Beth Nelson.
- **Pizza Forum.** All staff are invited to join David Johnson for another Pizza Forum on Friday, March 27, noon-1:00, in 118 Pattee. Food and beverages will be provided.
- **Facilities Management Meetings.** Judy Bartlett and Kay Almer will be meeting regularly with Facilities Management, approximately every three months. Any major concerns regarding Pattee Hall can be brought to them. More immediate concerns can be brought to Facilities Management directly by calling our zone office (626-8119). Facilities Management also has a Web site (<http://www.umn.edu/facm>) and there is a Facilities Management Services Guide in 102 Pattee.
- **New Signs.** New room number signs are being made to replace the old ones that were taken down (and never put back up) when the building was being painted. Facilities Management is making and paying for these signs so please be patient.
- **ICI Calendar.** A master calendar of ICI events and important dates is being prepared. The calendar will be posted in various places around the building as well as on the Web. Occasionally, information and reminders will be emailed to the ICI group. Please email any event information or important dates to Kay Almer at almer001@tc.umn.edu.
- **Space and Telecommunications Questions.** Kay Almer will be on vacation March 19-26. During her absence, bring any questions regarding space issues to David Johnson and any questions regarding telecommunications issues to Traci Woollums or Arly Piri.

Miscellaneous

- **Video Presentation.** The video, "Living in the Freedom World," produced by ACT and ICI, will be shown at the Midwest Film and Video Showcase on May 8, at 7:00 p.m. at Intermedia Arts, 2822 Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis.
- **Transition Awards.** The Transition Assistance Project has given Transition Planning Awards to the Little Crow CTIC and the Cloquet High School Moderate to Severe Mental Impairment Program.
- **New Grant Application Announcement.** The Office for Victims of Crime, U.S. Department of Justice, is soliciting proposals for enhancing, expanding, or developing the ability of ICI to work with persons with disabilities who are crime victims. For a copy of the application kit see Vicki in the Publications Office, 109 Pattee.
- **Birthdays.** David Stephan (3/16); Kay Almer (3/20); Nohoon Kwak (3/21); Lori Sedlezky (3/25); Angela Amado (3/26); Liz Carlon (3/26); Kathy Robison (3/29); Sandi Cassavant (3/30); Lynn Walz (4/2); Melissa Kau (4/10).

Bits and Pieces

Information from the Institute's Research and Technology Consulting Group (RTCG, 110 Pattee, 624-7337) and the Publications Office (109 Pattee, 624-4512).

• Legal Workshop

The Publications Office will be sponsoring a workshop for ICI staff and friends who develop, edit, design, or produce materials for print or electronic dissemination. The workshop is scheduled for Monday, March 30, 1:00-2:30 p.m. in 120 Burton. Attorneys Bill Donohoe and Nancy Hoyt from the University's General Counsel Office will cover copyright permissions; video, photo, and information releases; and libel, defamation, and invasion of privacy. To reserve your place, call Vicki Gaylord at 624-6347 by March 26.

• CD-ROM Developers

There are some questions regarding the legality of using the educational version of Authorware for products disseminated outside the University. If you are developing CD-ROMs, call Vicki in Publications (624-6347) for further information.

• Web Focus Group

The University's Enterprise Project Web Development Team is looking for Web users to participate in Twin Cities campus home page focus groups. The discussions will be held on Thursday, March 19 at 9:00, 11:00, and 2:00. Participants will receive \$10 worth of merchandise from the U of M Bookstores and free refreshments. Preferred participants are web users, but not web masters.

• New Publications

Policy Research Brief: Children and Youth Receiving Residential Services for Persons with Developmental Disabilities Outside the Family Home.