

June 15, 2000

ICI Project Assists American Indian Students in Pursuing Educational Goals

Last fall, the *Expanding the Circle* (ETC) project began a collaborative effort to promote the successful transition of American Indian students with disabilities to postsecondary education settings. Using effective practices and strategies developed as a result of the previous *Circle of Learning* project, this new effort is a three-year, \$450,000 project to expand the application of proven practices to seven American Indian reservations in Minnesota: Bois Forte, Red Lake, White Earth, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, Fond du Lac and Grand Portage. Funding is provided by the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), and principal partners in this effort include the Institute on Community Integration (ICI) and the Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College. This project has also received strong support from surrounding school districts that serve American Indian students with disabilities.

From 1996–1998, the *Circle of Learning* project provided training and technical assistance to more than 250 at-risk and American Indian students with disabilities in area of postsecondary transition. More than 300 reservation and surrounding school district staff received transition training that emphasized culturally competent practices and focused on meeting the needs of American Indian students. As a result, 20 students are now pursuing their postsecondary education. Given the current low levels of educational attainment and historically limited involvement in postsecondary education programs, these numbers represent a significant level of success and demonstrate the need to expand outreach activities within the state.

Now, ETC will provide several types of services designed to facilitate the secondary to postsecondary transition of American Indian students. These include (a) building capacity by creating a cadre of American Indian Outreach Trainers, (b) conducting training and ongoing technical assistance services for secondary case managers and postsecondary staff, (c) implementing the *ETC Summer Transition Program* for American Indian students with disabilities, and (d) conducting product development and information dissemination activities that will reach all 30 tribal colleges in the nation.

ETC represents one of the very first efforts to merge the concept of transition services with that of the cultural traditions of American Indian students. Based on the strong support it has received from collaborating institutions and the high level of involvement of those within American Indian communities, this effort will continue to build upon past achievements to serve as an effective model of exemplary practices that can be widely replicated on a national scale.

To date, lead and assistant trainers from the American Indian communities have participated in extensive training to prepare them to conduct these summer programs. As a result, seven summer ETC programs have been scheduled for this summer between June 5 and August 18. A maximum of 10 American Indian high school students will participate in such activities as college site visits, cultural activities related to career and college preparation, self-advocacy and awareness activities, and learning styles exercises.

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

Staff Update

- **Staff Arrivals.** Charles Fullerton, Graduate Research Assistant, CEED; Gavin Lemieux, Graduate Research Assistant, NTN; Laurie Menk, Community Program Specialist, Cognitive Behavior Project; Catherine Nelson, Student Secretary, School Age Services.
- **Staff Departures.** Stephanie McNeill, Graduate Research Assistant, ECRI-MGD Project; Kirstyn Rawlings, Undergraduate Research Assistant, Substance Use Intervention; Rebecca Swim, Community Program Specialist, Substance Use Intervention; Heather Briggs Neirmans, Undergraduate Research Assistant, NCEO.
- Mary McEvoy, Scott McConnell, Shelley Neilsen, and Christina Sheran presented at the 2nd Biennial Conference on Research Innovations in Early Intervention 2000 (CRIEI) on April 27–29 in San Diego. Mary and Scott served on the planning committee for the conference and were instrumental in inaugurating CRIEI two years ago. Judy Bartlett attended and served as conference manager.
- On April 28, Mary Sinclair, Sandy Christenson, and Christine Hurley presented at the annual AERA Convention in New Orleans on the *Check & Connect* project.
- The National Center on Educational Outcomes, directed by Martha Thurlow, has received renewed five-year funding totalling \$3.5 million from the U.S. Department of Education.

Dates to Remember . . .

- **June 23: Pizza Forum**, 12–1 p.m., 118 Pattee.
- **July 17: ICI Council Meeting**, 10–11:30 a.m., 118 Pattee Hall.
- **July 17: Grants/Funding Opportunities Group**, 11:45–1, 118 Pattee.

From the Front Office

News from ICI's Administrative Staff

- **Upcoming Holiday.** Tuesday, July 4 is an official University holiday and offices will be closed.
- **Outstanding Civil Service Award.** Congratulations to this year's recipients of the Outstanding Civil Service Award: **Connie Burkhart** and **Mike Vosika** (Publications Office) and **Arly Piri** (Administration).
- **ICI Council Update.** At the June 5 meeting, topics discussed included 1) P&A contracts, 2) outstanding issues with Sponsored Project Administration (SPA), 3) Pattee Hall basement, 4) ICI Inclusion Committee meeting, 5) ICI Certificate Program meeting on June 16, 6) ICI participation at the State Fair, 7) update from Fall Kickoff Committee, and 8) AAUP fellowship opportunity. The next meeting will be on July 17 at 10:00 a.m. in 118 Pattee.
- **Pattee Hall Basement and Related Space Concerns.** Facilities Management has completed the mold and asbestos abatement for most of the basement (Rooms 6 and 14 will be completed later this summer). Further refurbishments will include patching and repainting walls, replacing carpet, installing a ventilation system, and new partitions to set up workstations in Room 6. Room 6 must be cleaned out very soon, so each PI/program area is being asked to sort through boxes and materials in Room 6 and purge materials no longer needed. Documents that are to be saved should be labeled appropriately using labels provided by Laura Hagen in 102 Pattee. PIs/program areas are asked to complete this process no later than June 30, 2000.

Miscellaneous

- **Medicaid Fraud Division Handout.** A handout entitled "Referrals to the Medicaid Fraud Division of the Minnesota Attorney General's Office" will soon be sent to members of the Institute Council. If you'd like a copy, contact the Council member who represents your work group/program area.
- **Call for Submissions.** *Kaleidoscope Magazine* is seeking articles, stories, poems, art, etc. for an issue entitled "Disability Studies." Send in works that focus on teaching disability-related art and literature and the incorporation of these in the curriculum at the pre-university and university level. Articles may include theoretical and personal experience essays, and fiction examining the actual and potential experience of teaching disability-related art and literature. To obtain guidelines or send materials, write to Editor-In-Chief, United Disability Services, *Kaleidoscope Magazine*, 701 South Main, Akron, OH 44311-1019; 330-762-9755 (voice). Deadline for submission is August 1.
- **Remembering With Dignity Ceremony.** You are invited to attend a gravestone installation ceremony sponsored by *Remembering With Dignity*. It is designed to remember individuals who lived and died in Minnesota state institutions, and will symbolically place proper headstones to replace numbered headstones. The ceremony will be held at 2:00 p.m. on June 15 at the Willmar Regional Treatment Center, Oak Knoll Cemetery, Willmar, MN. For more information or directions, call 651-641-0297.
- **Birthdays.** Anya Shifman (6/16), Angela Swanson (6/18), Vicki Gaylord (6/18), Melissa Sullivan (6/20), Connie Burkhart (6/21), Lynne Havsy (6/25), Judy Swanson (7/3), Maytali Novak (7/4), Marie Stadler (7/8), Yvette Giles (7/8), Benjamin Anderson (7/9), Charlie Lakin (7/10), Jessica Florek (7/11), Mary Sinclair (7/12), Bill Latimer (7/15).

Bits & Pieces

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

Web Group Activities

- **Celebration!** You're invited to a party to celebrate the unveiling of the new ICI Website. It will be on Monday, June 26 at 2:30 in the Burton Hall Atrium and will include a virtual ribbon-cutting ceremony and short demonstration. Snacks and beverages will be served.
- **Postcard Notice.** We're announcing the new Website (and shorter Web address) on a postcard. If you'd like the postcard to go out to your constituencies or advisory groups, please contact Megan at 626-8649 by June 21 so she can have additional copies printed.
- **ICI Website Feedback.** Thank you to all staff who gave us feedback on the new ICI Website. We really appreciate your comments and are presently incorporating your feedback into the new site.

From the Publications Office

- **Campaign Minnesota.** The Publications Office has small supply of the College of Education and Human Development's *Campaign Minnesota* booklet. It outlines each of the College's campaign goals, in areas such as supporting outstanding faculty, graduate education, and specific strategic initiatives. The College's goal is to raise \$19 million.
- **New Publications.**
 - Revised ICI Brochure.*
 - DxVxF>R: A Summary of Learning From Supporting Inclusive Educational Environments Through Systematic Change.*
 - P.R.O. filer – Personal Portfolio and Filing System.*
- **FYI Deadline.** Submissions for the next FYI should be sent to Mike Vosika in 109 Pattee or e-mailed to vosik003@tc.umn.edu by Thursday, June 13.