



August 16, 2010

## ICI's National Center on Educational Outcomes Celebrates 20th Anniversary

This October, the National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO), a center of the Institute on Community Integration (ICI), marks its 20th anniversary. Since its founding it has become a national leader in helping states implement research-based educational policies and practices that ensure all students – including students with disabilities – can benefit from accountability and standards-based reforms.

When it began in October 1990 under the direction of Bob Bruininks, NCEO's main focus was on providing leadership in addressing the issue of inclusion of students receiving special education services in educational assessments, and on developing a comprehensive system of outcome indicators for students with disabilities to document the effects of, and make improvements in, special education services for those students. Under director Jim Ysseldyke from 1990-1999, NCEO's focus expanded to include gathering data on outcomes for limited English proficient students, and providing technical assistance to help states implement assessment and accountability systems that included students with disabilities and students with limited-English proficiency. In mid-1999, Martha Thurlow became director, and under her leadership NCEO received five-year funding in 2005 for a new role as a National Technical Assistance Center on Assessment for Children with Disabilities, shifting its focus to build the capacity of educational systems to implement empirically-based assessment and accountability approaches for students with disabilities. In recent years, NCEO has given significant technical assistance to state efforts to provide accommodations to students with disabilities, as well as providing such tools via new technology (for instance, NCEO's Data Viewer, an interactive data-reporting Web site at <http://data.nceo.info/>; an online searchable accommodations bibliography; and a soon-to-be-released online searchable bibliography on alternate assessment). Commenting on the center's evolving response to evolving needs, Martha notes, "As states and their stakeholders grapple with a host of assessment and accountability issues, we continue to help build their capacity to identify and implement practices that use a thoughtful approach to assessment and accountability issues, an approach grounded in research, informed by practice, and responsive to emerging understanding and the changing landscapes of school reform."

In addition to NCEO's capacity-building work, its staff are also involved in a host of other grant-funded projects including the Partnership for Accessible Reading Assessment (PARA), which is engaging in research on and development of accessible reading assessments that provide a valid demonstration of reading proficiency for increasingly diverse populations of students in our public schools, and particularly for those students who have disabilities that affect reading. Through its ongoing technical assistance to states nationwide, its 300-plus publications, and its involvement in national education policy formation through staff participation in policy advisory groups and testimony to Congress, NCEO shares its knowledge with the goal of continuing to develop educational policies and practices that ensure all students have access to the general education curriculum and can benefit from accountability and standards-based reforms.

NCEO is funded by a five-year, \$5 million core grant from the Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education. FFI, visit [www.nceo.info](http://www.nceo.info).

## Staff Update

- **Staff Hires:** **Patrick Hilden** and **Sarah MapleLentz**, GRAs, Administration; **Amelia Maynard**, GRA, Transition; and **Timothy Moore**, Research Associate, Administration. **Staff Departures:** **Carrie Coslin**, Principal Office and Administrative Specialist, Transition; and **Matthew Timmons**, Temporary Employee, Transition.
- On August 2, the Arc of the U.S. announced that **Charlie Lakin** will receive their prestigious Research Matters! Award at the organization's 60th Anniversary Convention to be held in Orlando, November 3-6.
- On July 26, **Charlie Lakin** attended the White House commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. While in Washington he was also part of the first-ever National Disability Policy Summit convened by The National Council on Disability (NCD) to invigorate a national dialogue on disability policies and programs in the 21st century.
- **Sherri Larson**, **Amy Hewitt**, and **Charlie Lakin** from ICI, along with the School of Public Health, School of Social Work and others were part of a successful University of Minnesota proposal for a Master Contract to conduct research and related projects for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Principal Investigator (PI) is Bob Kane, Director of the Center on Aging in the School of Public Health, and Charlie is Co-PI.

## Dates to Remember...

- September 6: University Closed
- September 7: ICI Council, 10-12, 118 Pattee
- September 17: Pizza Forum, 12-1, 118 Pattee

## From the Front Office

### News from ICI's Administrative Staff

- **ICI Award Recipients.** Connie Burkhart (Administration) has received the 2010 ICI Excellence and Community Building Award and Damien Cormier (NCEO) has received the 2010 ICI Future Leader Award. They will be recognized at ICI's Annual Kickoff on November 5 and receive a gift card, and their names will be engraved on the awards plaque located in 102 Pattee Hall. Congratulations!
- **Workgroup Calendar Update.** Information about training and implementation for Workgroup Calendar, the College's online tool, will be announced by the end of August. This automated tool is designed for Professional and Administrative, Civil Service, and Bargaining Unit staff, and their supervisors, who want to request and track their vacation time.

## Miscellaneous

- **Special Education Survey.** The National Post-School Outcomes Center and the PACER Center have collaborated to prepare new videos to encourage special education students to participate in state outcome surveys. Every state is conducting a survey to find out what students who received special education services are doing one year after leaving high school; results from these surveys will help educators improve services for students with disabilities who are still in school. To help increase response rates, the National Post-School Outcomes Center has announced the launch of "Be a Superstar: Take the Survey." These YouTube videos are designed to encourage students and families to complete post-school outcomes surveys. Different versions of the videos are available for youth and parents in both English and Spanish. FFI, visit [www.youtube.com/pacercenter](http://www.youtube.com/pacercenter) or [www.psocenter.org/data\\_collection.html](http://www.psocenter.org/data_collection.html).
- **Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Conference.** There will be an all-day conference on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome titled, "Child of Mine – Raising a Child with FASD: Current Trends in Prevention and Intervention," at the University of Minnesota Conference Center on the St. Paul campus on September 9. The keynote speakers are Professor Claire Coles, director of the Maternal Substance Abuse and Child

Also a reminder to staff who are eligible for vacation/sick time: Please continue to submit any such time taken promptly and report it on appropriate absence cards and/or academic paper forms until ICI moves to the automated system. Questions? Contact your supervisor or Beth at 6-8042.

- **GRA Appointment Information.** Summer Term ends August 30 and Fall Semester begins August 31. Information regarding the continuation of GRA appointments for the academic year (8/31/10-5/29/11) was e-mailed to supervisors on July 29. Deadline for submitting information was August 13. Anyone hiring GRAs, and any GRAs leaving ICI, should contact Amy Kurowski at [kuro0008@umn.edu](mailto:kuro0008@umn.edu).

Development Prevention Project at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, and David Wargowski, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and a clinician who specializes in congenital anomalies and developmental disorders, including those caused by prenatal exposure to alcohol. The registration deadline is August 30. Questions? Please call 651-351-3152 or 651-351-3135. FFI, visit [www.fasdrn.nonprofitoffice.com](http://www.fasdrn.nonprofitoffice.com)

- **Down Syndrome Conference.** The Down Syndrome Association of Minnesota will present the "Adult Matters Conference" at the Roseville Radisson on September 11, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The conference will include sessions on physical and mental wellness, healthful living for teens and adults, communication, and housing. FFI and registration, visit [www.dsamn.org](http://www.dsamn.org).
- **Birthdays.** Matthew Hall (8/19), Martha Thurlow (8/19), Christopher Johnstone (8/20), Meghan Mason (8/20), Mai Vang (8/23), Naomi Scott (8/25), Srividhya Shanker (9/2), Carol Ely (9/6), April Kaisen (9/8), Cliff Poetz (9/12), Jerry Smith (9/14), and Kurt Rutzen (9/15). Did we miss your birthday? Let us know! Call 4-2380 or e-mail [kuro0008@umn.edu](mailto:kuro0008@umn.edu).

## Bits & Pieces

### Information on New Publications and Web Sites

- **New Publications.** The following new ICI publications are available:
  - *2009 Survey of States: Accomplishments and New Issues at the End of a Decade of Change* (June 2010). Published by the Institute's National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO) and available on the Web at [www.cehd.umn.edu/nceo/OnlinePubs/2009StateSurvey.pdf](http://www.cehd.umn.edu/nceo/OnlinePubs/2009StateSurvey.pdf).
  - *Annual Performance Report: 2007-2008 State Assessment Data* (August 2010). Published by NCEO and available on the Web at [www.cehd.umn.edu/nceo/OnlinePubs/APRreport2007-2008.pdf](http://www.cehd.umn.edu/nceo/OnlinePubs/APRreport2007-2008.pdf).
  - *Brain Injury* module (August 2010). A Disability Intensive Course published by the College of Direct Support, an Internet-based curriculum for Direct Support Professionals managed in partnership by MC Strategies/Elsevier and the Institute's Research and Training Center on Community Living. Available on the Web at <http://info.collegeofdirectsupport.com> (click on "Curriculum" and choose "Disability Intensive Courses").
  - *Charting the Course: Supporting the Career Development of Youth with Learning Disabilities* (2010). Co-authored by ICI's Joe Timmons and published by the Institute for Educational Leadership, National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth in Washington, DC. Available on the Web at [www.ncwd-youth.info/sites/default/files/ld-guide\\_2.pdf](http://www.ncwd-youth.info/sites/default/files/ld-guide_2.pdf).
- **"Products" and "Projects + Centers" Updates.** The "Products" and the "Projects + Centers" sections of the Institute's Web site are both being updated. Such updates happen three times a year and the Fall 2010 update is in progress. Project directors and coordinators whose projects and products are posted on these Web pages have received notification in their mailboxes and/or via e-mail and should review their descriptions by Friday, August 27.
- **FYI Deadline.** Items for the next FYI should be submitted to Tom ([donag003@umn.edu](mailto:donag003@umn.edu)) by Wednesday, September 8.