



June 15, 2006

ICI Holds Forum on Disability Views From Around the World

In an effort to better serve immigrant and other cultural groups in the Twin Cities, on June 1 the Institute on Community Integration (ICI) held an interactive community forum, called "Disability Views From Around the World," in downtown Minneapolis. The purpose of the event was to establish contacts and build relationships in diverse communities around the Twin Cities and to learn about the varying views of disability within different cultures. Its overall goal was to help ICI become better at including diverse communities in its grant activities and research efforts.

The Institute's diversity workgroup, which organized the forum, invited community leaders, parents, self-advocates, service providers, county providers, and direct support professionals from the Asian, African, African American, American Indian, and Hispanic communities to the event. Attendees viewed a Power Point presentation and video created by ICI media producer Jerry Smith that summarized the history of Western attitudes and responses to disability, profiled the Institute's work, and showed how it grew out of that history. The 53 attendees then met in small groups to discuss their cultural perceptions of disability; current dominant values in disability services and advocacy such as person-centered planning, self-advocacy, and self-determination; and service delivery needs in their communities. At the end of the day the entire group reconvened to suggest how all attendees, including ICI, might better serve people with disabilities within diverse communities. Suggestions included conducting collaborative research with diverse communities, offering disability education in those communities, and responding to service delivery needs.

The Institute's diversity workgroup is compiling its findings from the forum and will share them later this summer with the ICI Council and ICI principal investigators. Findings will also be shared with members of the Cultural Responsiveness Initiative (CRI), a collaborative workgroup comprised of employees from Hennepin County, Ramsey County, and the Arc Greater Twin Cities. CRI members facilitated small group discussions at the forum and the ICI diversity workgroup intends to collaborate with CRI in the future.

"The Disability Views From Around the World forum was an important event that will enhance ICI's work in the future," says Traci Laliberte, an Institute researcher and diversity workgroup member. "ICI staff and forum participants identified several areas where we can work together to ensure that culture is consistently considered in various aspects of disability-related research, training, service provision, and system change. We are now in a better position to understand different values, beliefs, and needs of people from various cultures, which will allow us to partner with diverse communities in our work."

Other diversity workgroup members include ICI staffers Connie Burkhart, Carol Ely, Ann Mavis, Marijo McBride, Jean Ness, Jerry Smith, Pam Stenhjem, and Matt Ziegler, as well as Richard Oni (ICI diversity consultant) and Ella Gross (community liaison).

For more information about the forum contact Traci Laliberte at (612) 625-9700 or lali0017@umn.edu, or Pam Stenhjem at (612) 625-3863 or huntx010@umn.edu.

Staff Update

- **Staff Hires:** **Carrie Coslin**, Principal Office & Administrative Specialist, School-Age Services; and **Troy Ellis**, GRA, School-Age Services. **Staff Departures:** **Jeffrey Babi**, GRA, Transition; **Zoila Ganuza**, GRA, School Age; **Saahoon Hong**, GRA, School Age; **Terry Johnsen**, Coordinator, NCEO; **Cammy Lehr**, Research Associate, School Age; **Kate McCormick**, GRA, Adult Services; **Bill Murray**, GRA, School Age; **Kelsey Norton**, GRA, School Age; **Anna-Lind Petursdottir**, GRA, School Age; **Hunter Sargent**, Temporary Support, Transition; and **Deanna Spanjers**, GRA, School Age.
- **Lynn LaPointe**, **Jean Ness**, and **Dennis Olson** are partnering with Red Lake staff to conduct a one-week program called "Jump Start" for high school youth, June 12-16. The program emphasizes building skills to prepare students for post-high school options.
- The American Educational Research Association Division H Outstanding Publication Competition presented a First Place award for Assessment-Related Training and/or Preparation Materials to **Sandra Thompson**, Amanda Morse, **Michael Sharpe**, Sharon Hall and the Council of Chief State School Officers for their *Accommodations Manual: How to Select, Administer, and Evaluate Use of Accommodations for Instruction and Assessment of Students with Disabilities*. The award is dated April 2006.

Dates to Remember...

- **June 23: Pizza Forum**, 12-1, 118 Pattee Hall
- **July 4: University Closed**

From the Front Office

News from ICI's Administrative Staff

- **P&A Appointment Letters.** P&A appointment letters for 2006/07 were sent out the week of June 5. Merit information will follow under separate cover.
- **P&A Vacation Records.** P&A vacation records are due in 107 Pattee by June 30. Questions? Call Amy at 4-2380.
- **Personal Holiday.** Civil Service/Bargaining Unit staff have until June 30 to use your 2005/06 personal holiday. Please indicate its use on your absence card. Questions? Call Amy at 4-2380.
- **NIRS Data Entry Due June 26.** All NIRS data including activities, projects must be entered by June 26, 2006 so the final report to ADD can be completed. Questions? Call Matt at 6-7322 or Jon at 6-1515.
- **Phone List Updated.** The ICI phone list has been updated. To view/print go to Orpheus at <http://ici.umn.edu/intranet>, and click on "ICI Phone List" on the right hand column. Any information that needs to be corrected, please contact Amy at kuro0008@umn.edu.
- **Institute Council Update.** The Institute Council met on June 12 and discussed the College restructuring in relation to technology support and financial services support, and the implications of changes for ICI; the College's new cellular device policy; ICI P&A appointment letters; update on CEED activities; and miscellaneous announcements.

Miscellaneous

- **CEED Summer Courses.** This summer, the Center for Early Education and Development (CEED) is offering two self-paced, online courses. From June 26 through August 28, Leah Hjelseth teaches "Addressing Needs of Young Children Who Engage in Challenging Behavior." From July 10 through September 1, Scott Harman teaches "Introduction to Infant Mental Health." Each course offers the opportunity to earn 24 clock hours of continuing education credit. For registration and other information, contact Karen Anderson at ander352@umn.edu.
- **Report on Foster Care.** A recent report by Chapin Hall Center for Children, University of Chicago, titled, *Behavior Problems and Educational Disruptions Among Children in Out-of-Home Care* explores the intersection of placement in foster care and the classification of emotional disturbance. The report is online at www.chapinhall.org; click on the report title in the lower left corner of the screen.
- **Mental Health for Teens.** MindZone (<http://www.copecaredeal.org/>) is a mental health Web site for teens that provides information and tools to help them cope and deal with their own mental health issues and care for friends and loved ones with mental health issues. This site was created by the Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands with support from the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania.
- **Birthdays.** Vicki Gaylord (6/18), Connie Burkhart (6/21), Cassandra Scharber (6/23), Donna Johnson (6/26), Seungsoo Yeo (6/26), Rachel Halvorson (6/30), Ann Bailey (7/2), Traci Laliberte (7/3), Trisha Beuhring (7/4), Jennifer Davie (7/4), Charlie Lakin (7/10), and Shawn Lawler (7/10). 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:
 - *Impact: Feature Issue on Parenting Teens and Young Adults with Disabilities* (Spring/Summer 2006, Vol. 19, No. 2). Publishing by the Institute and available from the Publication Office. It will be online by June 19 at <http://ici.umn.edu/products/impact/192/default.html>.
 - *Synthesis Report 60: Dealing with Flexibility in Assessments for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities* (June 2006). Published by the Institute's National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO) and available at <http://education.umn.edu/nceo>.
- **Megan Dushin is Back from Maternity Leave.** Megan is working half-time, overseeing much of the Web and electronic dissemination work for ICI and the Transition program area. She works in Pattee Hall on Tuesday and Thursday and from her home office on Monday and Wednesday. She can be reached at dushi001@umn.edu throughout the week.
- **Upcoming Impact Issues.** ICI's publication *Impact* will explore new as well as familiar topics during this coming year. Scheduled topics are: Supporting success in school and beyond for students with autism spectrum disorders (Fall 2006), direct support workforce development (Winter 2006/07), and emergency preparedness and persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (Spring 2007).
- **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, July 11, 2006.