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DULUTH -- A project aimed at improving the teaching of Chippewa Indian children in Northeastern Minnesota will take UMD Professor Dean A. Crawford to Grand Portage, Nett Lake and Fond du Lac Reservations during the next year.

Crawford has received a grant of \$22,374 for the study from the Upper Midwest Regional Education Laboratory in Minneapolis. The University of Minnesota is a joint sponsor.

The project has two major purposes; to directly assist the teachers of Chippewa children and to gather data for a teacher's handbook.

The production and distribution of the handbook will include special emphasis on an understanding of the Indian and his culture plus insight into relevant attitudes of Chippewa parents, children and their teachers.

Information gathered but not used in the handbook will form the basis for additional investigation of American Indian education, according to Crawford.

Crawford will coordinate the entire project, observe in elementary and secondary school classrooms, assist the instruction in evening study halls, conduct interviews, gather information for state and school records, and be senior author of the handbook.

He will be assisted in the project by Virgil Wurr, principal at the Nett Lake Elementary School for 12 years, and David L. Peterson, a principal in the Grand Portage Elementary School.

(more)

Educators from Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and North and South Dakota formed the Upper Midwest Regional Education Laboratory in June 1966. It coordinates efforts to improve instructional programs in public and private elementary and secondary schools throughout the five-state region.

Located at 2698 University Avenue in St. Paul, the Laboratory is an independent, non-profit organization funded by the U. S. Office of Education under Title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.