



October 15, 2000

ICI Awarded \$9.5 Million for National Education Center

The Institute on Community Integration (ICI) has received a \$9.5 million award from the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, U.S. Department of Education, to create the National Center on Secondary Education and Transition. The center's mission is to ensure that students with disabilities leave high school prepared to successfully participate in postsecondary education, enter meaningful employment, and contribute to their communities.

"In my work with youth who have disabilities, I've known students who, because of their disability labels, have never had the opportunity to seriously consider further education or to prepare for employment that would be fulfilling," says David R. Johnson, ICI and Center director. "We know from studies that only 19% of high school graduates with disabilities go on for further education within two years after high school. And only 29% of adults with disabilities are in the workforce full or part time. Secondary students with disabilities have high drop-out rates, substantial unemployment and underemployment, low levels of academic achievement, and limited participation in education beyond high school – and we believe this is in large part due to limited opportunities to take a different path. We want more students to be like a young man I know named Ben who, though he has significant disabilities and received special education services during high school, went on to successfully complete school, attend community college, and obtain employment in his community. He had parents and teachers who believed in his abilities and supported his plans and goals for himself. We want all young people with disabilities to receive that kind of support, and through this center we'll be working with educators and other

school staff, families, and youth to better support students with disabilities to realize their individual potential."

Specific goals of the five-year project include:

- Ensure students with disabilities, including those with significant needs, access to the full range of learning experiences in the general education curriculum.
- Empower students and families to participate at all levels of secondary education and transition.
- Ensure students' access to and full participation in postsecondary education, employment, and independent living opportunities.
- Strengthen state and local capacity to effectively improve secondary education and transition policies and practices.
- Improve collaboration and system linkages at all levels.

The Center is a collaborative partnership between ICI and a number of other organizations including:

- University of Hawaii's National Center on the Study of Postsecondary Education Supports
- TransCen, Inc., a national employment training organization for young adults with disabilities
- Institute for Educational Leadership, Center on Workforce Development, a national organization linking education with the needs of the workplace
- PACER Center, a nationally-recognized organization equipping families to advocate for their children with disabilities
- National Association of State Directors of Special Education

For more information, contact David R. Johnson at 624-1062.

Staff Update

- **Staff Arrivals.** Hatti Hembre, Student Secretary, UAP; Heidi Kluding, GRA, UAP.
- **Staff Departures.** Amy Esler, NCEO; John Jendro, RRTC; Hyun-Jeong Park, Adult Services; Jenna Ernst, Cognitive Behavioral Project; Nicole Lei, RRTC; Mark Hoornbeek, RRTC; Ruth Nelson, NCEO; Charles Fullerton, CEED; Bob Kambeitz, Beacons of Excellence; Jodi Hennessey, Cognitive Behavioral Project; Julia Harmon Bell, Self-Determination Project; and Kula, who is finishing her service-dog training with Jeff Priest.
- A fond farewell to a few more "old timers" from the Check & Connect program, Donna Patterson, Lynne Havsy, Amy Reschly Anderson (now with the Beacons project), and Jodi Maagard Wisti. You will be missed!
- Jean Ness presented at the CEC/DDEL 2000 Symposium on Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Exceptional Learners. The symposium was held on Oct. 12–13 in Albuquerque, NM.
- Congratulations to Jerry Smith and wife Sarah on the birth of their daughter, Sophia Gayle, on Sept. 26.
- Scott McConnell has received a three-year, \$539,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) for the project titled *Improving Preschoolers' Reading Outcomes*. Jeff Priest and Jongho Shin serve as co-investigators. He was also awarded a two-year, \$399,000 grant from the USDE for the *Development and Refinement of Web-Based Tools* project.

Dates to Remember . . .

- **Oct. 16 and Nov. 2:** ICI Council Meeting, 10–11:30 a.m., 118 Pattee.
- **Oct. 20:** Pizza Forum, 12–1 p.m., 118 Pattee.

From the Front Office

News from ICI's Administrative Staff

- **Fall Kickoff Invitations.** Invitations for the 2000 ICI Fall Kickoff and 15-Year Anniversary Celebration will be sent out next week. The event is scheduled for Friday, November 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Radisson Metrodome. In order to get an accurate count of who will attend, we ask that you RSVP as soon as possible to Julia Washenberger at 624-2380 or washes004@tc.umn.edu.
- **Open Enrollment.** All Civil Service and P&A staff should have recently received Open Enrollment packets. The deadline for making any changes to your benefits is Nov. 15. If you have questions or have not received your enrollment information, contact Employee Benefits at 624-9090.
- **GRA Appointment Letters.** All Graduate Research Assistants and their supervisors should have received letters of appointment for new and continuing GRAs. If you haven't done so already, please verify appointment information, sign, and return to Beth in 107 Pattee as soon as possible.
- **Attention P&A staff.** Academic vacation records for last quarter (July-Sept.) were due at the end of September. Please submit them as soon as possible to Beth in 107 Pattee.
- **ICI Council Update.** On Oct. 2, the topics discussed were: 1) new Training Director position, 2) Neurodevelopmental position, 3) Fall Kickoff update, 4) AAUAP reporting, 5) publications survey results, and 6) Pattee basement update. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 16 at 10:00 a.m.
- **Community Advisory Committee Update.** Members will be meeting on Oct. 19 from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at the Radisson Metrodome. The committee will wrap-up their discussion of transition-related topics and will move on to the issue of training for persons working in the disability field.
- **College Senate Update.** The next meeting of the College of Education and Human Development's Senate Consultative Committee will be held on Oct. 24 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in 108 Burton Hall.

Miscellaneous

- **Disability Culture Week.** The Disabled Student Cultural Center (DSCC) is proud to present the first annual Disability Culture Week (Oct. 13–21) on campus. The week features a film festival honoring award-winning filmmakers with disabilities; a conference on civil-rights concerns of people of color with disabilities; a community forum entitled "Queer Bodies," which explores the intersection of gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender and disability identities; and an awards banquet. For more details, call DSCC at 624-2602.
- **SEAC Meeting.** The Special Education Advisory Committee will be meeting Nov. 7–8 to discuss the topic of "diversity." All those interested are invited to attend as audience members. Contact Julia Washenberger at 624-2380 for more details, including location.
- **2000 Closing the Gap Conference.** Closing the Gap, an international conference featuring computer technology in special education and rehabilitation, will be held October 19–21 at the Radisson South Hotel in Bloomington, Minnesota. For more information about sessions and exhibitions, contact 507-248-3294 or www.closingthegap.com.
- **Birthdays.** Lucinda Hahn (10/15), Michelle Olson (10/16), Brian Aberly (10/17), Nicole Schuller (10/17), Kris Schoeller (10/20), Megan Dushin (10/22), Christine Hurley (10/23), Mary Mack (10/25), Jane Minnema (10/27), Deborah Anderson (10/29), Ann Mavis (11/4), Matt Ziegler (11/7), Patricia Marquez (11/8), Laurie Menk (11/9), Jean Ness (11/14), Ruth Berman (11/15), Jung Ryu (11/15).

Bits & Pieces

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

Web Group Activities

- **Send Your Opinion on Technology Needs to the White House.** On July 25, President Clinton issued an Executive Memorandum to prepare a report identifying priority needs for new assistive technologies and universal designs. The Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR), which is chaired by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), is gathering data from its member agencies and researchers and is being prepared in cooperation with the disability and the research communities. The report will be based on a comprehensive literature review; interviews and written contributions from federal, state, and private-sector specialists; and focus groups that elicit consumer viewpoints. Conwal Incorporated, a federal government contractor providing support to ICDR, is collecting information from the disability community through a special website. It will be operational for a short time only as all feedback must be collected by October 23, 2000 to be included in the report. To provide feedback, go to: <http://www.conwal.com/icdr/execmemo/>

From the Publications Office

- **New Publications.**
 - Publications Catalog - Fall 2000*
 - ParaLink: Feature Issue on Managing Challenging Behavior*
 - Policy Research Brief: Do We Really Mean Families for All Children? Permanency Planning for Children with Developmental Disabilities.*
- **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 Monday, Nov. 13.