

Immediate Release

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Duluth-- Two grants totaling \$138,125 have been awarded to the Educational Research and Development Council of Northeast Minnesota (RAND), according to Congressman John A. Blatnik.

Dr. Wesley T. Shepard, executive secretary of RAND which has offices on the UMD campus, said both projects are being funded under Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

The first grant is for \$108,275 to initiate in Northeast Minnesota the pilot phase of a special education project for the Gifted Child Through Television. RAND is the first organization to submit a statewide proposal.

The pilot project will field-test a plan for meeting the special educational and cultural needs by television of gifted students in grades three through nine. Eventually, the project will become statewide.

The initial phase of the pilot-program will be planned and directed in Duluth through the facilities of WDSE-TV, the Twin Ports educational television station. Personnel from school districts throughout Northeast Minnesota will be drawn into the project.

The second grant for \$29,850 is an addition to the original allocation last January of \$227,847.96 for the operation of RAND's Supplementary Services Center.

Originally, four school districts---Lake County, Cook County, Hermantown and Proctor---asked for the funds in order to pay for a cooperative program in counseling, psychological and social services for their students. The U.S. Office of Education rejected that proposal.

RAND resubmitted a proposal through its office, adding the services requested to its own Center program and adding Cloquet and the unorganized territory in St. Louis County to the service area.

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Now RAND is working with the Duluth Mental Hygiene Clinic to acquire the services of school psychologists to work within the new project area and to expand the original program.

Dr. Shepard said both projects will greatly increase the scope of RAND during the next school term, and it is hoped will give a shot in the arm to educational television programming in Northeast Minnesota.