



December 15, 2011

RTC's College of Direct Support Anchors New Nationwide Online Curriculum Series

After more than a decade of success with its College of Direct Support, an innovative online curriculum for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs), the Institute's Research and Training Center on Community Living (RTC) is partnering with Elsevier/MC Strategies to further expand online training for professionals who support people who have intellectual, developmental, and physical disabilities; those with psychiatric disabilities; as well as those who are aging. In November, they launched DirectCourse, an expanded suite of online curricula that will not only include the College of Direct Support, but also three additional curriculum series developed by new partners from other universities.

The College of Direct Support (CDS) was developed at the RTC and is managed in partnership with Elsevier/MC Strategies, a world-leading provider of scientific, technical and medical information. Currently used in over 32 states by more than 250,000 learners, CDS is a comprehensive set of Web-based courses for DSPs based on proven competencies needed to provide high quality support to individuals with disabilities. And it is the model that DirectCourse emulates in the new online offerings.

DirectCourse is initially offering two different curriculum series:

- The CDS curriculum for DSPs and their supervisors, designed to equip DSPs to empower and support people with disabilities in community living.
- The just-launched College of Employment Services curriculum, developed by the Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts Boston, and designed to equip employment professionals to excel in guiding people with disabilities and other challenges toward rewarding jobs.

Two additional curriculum series will be joining DirectCourse in the near future:

(1) The College of Personal Assistance and Caregiving, developed by the Research and Training Center for Personal Assistance Services at the University of California, San Francisco, which is scheduled for release in 2012 and will offer a curriculum for home care providers delivering personal care services to individuals with physical disabilities and older adults; and (2) a curriculum focusing on services for people with psychiatric disabilities, which is being developed by the Temple University Collaborative on Community Inclusion of Individuals with Psychiatric Disabilities and is anticipated to be ready for release in early 2013.

"This is an important expansion of our work on CDS over the past 10 years," says Amy Hewitt, RTC Director. "The DirectCourse collaboration opens a new set of opportunities for increasing the scope and quality of services being delivered to people with disabilities and those who are aging across this country. We're using the proven approach of online, on-demand, competency-based training that responds to the way adults in these fields actually learn best. And through this coursework, we're setting clear national standards for the industry, which increases the professional status, job performance, and job satisfaction of these important segments of our workforce, and the quality of services and care they deliver."

FFI, visit www.directcourseonline.com or contact Amy at hewit005@umn.edu or 612-625-1098.

Staff Update

- **Staff Hires/Departures:** None.
- The Institute's Research and Training Center on Community Living (RTC) has received a 5-year, \$1 million grant from the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to launch the Supporting Individuals and Families Information Systems Project. **Sherri Larson** and **Amy Hewitt** are the Principal Investigators at ICI.
- **Derek Nord** and **Amy Hewitt** were among the presenters of "Changing Training Practices of Adult Support Providers," at the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) 2011 conference in Washington, D.C., November 6-9. **David R. Johnson** presented "Intended and Unintended Consequences of State Graduation Requirements and Diploma Options for Students with Disabilities;" **Jean Ness** co-presented "Transition to College for Students with ID: A Review of Five Programs from New York to Hawaii;" and **Jerry Smith** presented on disability rights history as a panelist for "The Journey Continues – Where We've Been."
- **Lynda Anderson** presented, "Critical Elements of Health Care Coordination for People with Physical Disabilities," at the American Public Health Association annual meeting in Washington, D.C., October 29 - November 2.
- Congratulations go out to **Xueqin ("Shirley") Qian** and Jason Allen on the October 31 birth of their son, Edward James Allen.

Dates to Remember...

- December 26-27: University Closed
- January 2: University Closed
- January 10: ICI Council, 10-12, 118 Pattee
- January 16: University Closed

From the Front Office

News from ICI's Administrative Staff

- **Academic Personal Holiday.** All Professional and Administrative (P&A) staff and Graduate Research Assistants (GRAs) receive an Academic Personal Holiday to use between December 22, 2011 and January 16, 2012. This Personal Holiday for academic staff must be taken between the designated dates and expires if not used within that time period. This holiday cannot be banked or used outside of this window. P&A staff should enter their Personal Holiday in Workgroup Calendar (and title it as such), and GRAs should e-mail their supervisors indicating their Personal Holiday use (tracked via supervisors). Questions? Contact Beth Nelson at 6-8042 or nelso106@umn.edu.
- **Time Card Employees and Their Supervisors.** Time cards for 2012 will be distributed to hourly employees by the end of the month. Also a reminder that hourly employees are not eligible for holiday pay. Questions? Contact Amy Kurowski at kuro0008@umn.edu.
- **Research Fellows and Their Supervisors.** Information regarding promotion to Senior Research Fellow was e-mailed December 12. Research Fellows interested in pursuing a promotion should notify Beth Nelson in writing by January 13, 2012.
- **Norris Hall Demolition.** The demolition of Norris Hall has begun, and will last for over a month. The metered parking lot behind Shevlin Hall is now closed for construction staging. The site restoration work will be done by spring 2012.
- **ICI Council Update.** The Institute Council met December 13 and among the topics were preliminary review and discussion of results from the ICI Disability Survey of employees (more results and review to follow next month); updates on federal funding agency activities; CEHD and University award opportunities; and LEND and CEED updates.

Miscellaneous

- **UCEDD Collaborative on Disability and Religion.** ICI is one of 11 University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs) that are establishing the National Collaborative on Disability, Religion, and Inclusive Spiritual Supports. The Collaborative will develop and provide coordinated training, technical assistance, research, and product development to people with disabilities and their families, clergy, congregations, and service providers in the arena of inclusive spiritual supports. The collaborative is led by the Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities (New Jersey UCEDD) and the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center (Tennessee UCEDD). FFI at ICI, contact Angela Amado at amado003@umn.edu or 651-698-5565.
- **Global Disability Rights Library.** The Global Disability Rights Library (GDRL) is a collection of resources for decision makers and disability rights advocates worldwide. GDRL seeks to build a bridge between global information sources and millions of people with disabilities, advocates, and policymakers by making it easier for them to access hundreds of thousands of educational and organizational resources on

disability rights, whether or not they have access to the Internet. Supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development, the library provides a wealth of information to organizations and individuals in developing countries that seek to promote the rights of people with disabilities, but lack adequate Internet access. FFI, visit <http://www.widernet.org/eGranary/GDRL>.

- **What Works Clearinghouse.** The What Works Clearinghouse, an initiative of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), has been updated to give the public better ways to find what works in education. Publications are now categorized into 15 topic areas. Resources included under topic areas include reviews, practice guides, and intervention reports. FFI, visit <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/>.
- **Birthdays.** **Mary McEathron** (12/24), **Jane Krentz** (12/24), **Xueqin ("Shirley") Qian** (12/31), **Jon Goldman** (1/6), **John Westerman** (1/7), **Pam Stenhjem** (1/10), **Debbie Hansen** (1/14), **Matt Fricke** (1/15), **Annie Johnson** (1/17), and **Amanda Morse** (1/17). Did we miss your birthday? Let us know! Call 4-2380 or e-mail kuro0008@umn.edu.

Bits & Pieces

Information on New Publications and Web Sites

- **New Publications.** The following new ICI publication is available:
 - *Policy Research Brief: A National Review of Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders* (December 2011). Published by the Institute's Research and Training Center on Community Living. Available in the Publications Office and on the Web at <http://ici.umn.edu/products/prb/213/default.html> beginning December 16.
- **Expanded RIPM Report Collection.** Three more technical reports have been added to the 35 reports already posted on ICI's Research Institute on Progress Monitoring (RIPM) Web site at <http://www.progressmonitoring.net/> under "RIPM Technical Reports." The three additions are:
 - *Technical Report 8: Technical Features of Narrative vs. Expository and Handwritten vs. Word-Processed Measures of Written Expression for Secondary-Level Students*
 - *Technical Report 30: Teachers' Understanding of Curriculum-Based Measurement Progress Monitoring Data*
 - *Technical Report 38: Examining Technical Features of Progress Monitoring Measures Across Grade Levels in Writing*
- **College of Direct Support Webinars Online.** The College of Direct Support (CDS) has posted its "Insights Web Seminars" for 2011 on its Web site at <http://elsevierdirectpaths.com/web-seminar-2011.php>. CDS' Webinars from June, August, and September 2011 have already been posted to the site and the November seminar will appear online soon. The August Webinar introduces the College's lessons in Spanish; the other three discuss best practices among Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) – CDS' target audience. The Webinars are in voice-enriched video presentation format and DSPs can download them anytime.
- **FYI Deadline.** Items for the next FYI should be submitted to Tom (donag003@umn.edu) by January 9, 2012.