

Duluth--- After spending nine months observing the teaching of Chippewa Indian children, UMD Professor Dean A. Crawford came away "with more questions than answers."

"It has been an incredibly valuable year for me," Dr. Crawford admits. "I now have a much broader view of the problems teachers face, the disadvantages Indian children must overcome, and the varied conditions which exist in the reservation schools.

"Certainly, I am much less naive than I was last fall when I started this project."

Dr. Crawford, who resigned as UMD head of secondary education to take on the research, received a \$22,374 grant last October from the Upper Midwest Regional Education Laboratory in Minneapolis with the University of Minnesota as a joint sponsor.

In order to gather information first-hand through observation, interviews and questionnaires, Prof. Crawford lived in a trailer on the Nett Lake Reservation last fall and the Grand Portage Reservation this spring. During the winter he spent considerable time on the Fond du Lac Reservation.

Dr. Crawford and his staff now are busy at UMD writing a handbook scheduled for publication this fall by the Minnesota State Department of Education.

While the handbook will provide some information on techniques peculiar to the teaching of Indian children, it's main emphasis will be on the Indian pupil, his culture and his special needs. Resource materials and reading lists also will be included.

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"This type of experiences makes me realize more than ever that each Indian child has individual needs," Crawford points out. "We have directed our attention primarily to the teacher who has but a few Indian children in a mixed class.

"It is too easy to over-generalize. Nevertheless, we hope our handbook will serve a statewide purpose in promoting understanding of the Indian people and their circumstances, and at the same time give individual teachers something with which to work."

Assisting Dr. Crawford in producing the handbook are Virgil Wurr, principal for 12 years at the Nett Lake Elementary School, and David L. Peterson, principal at the Grand Portage Elementary School.

Dr. Crawford will return to his teaching in secondary education at UMD this fall and Wurr and Peterson will resume their principalships. Crawford expects to present slide-lectures throughout the area explaining to fellow educators and the public what he has learned about Indian schools, the teachers, children and parents.