



September 15, 2015

## ICI Partners with Siberian University to Improve Inclusive Education in Russia

The Institute on Community Integration (ICI) is partnering with Krasnoyarsk State Pedagogical University (KSPU) in Siberia to improve the inclusion of Russian students with significant cognitive disabilities in elementary and secondary schools. Through the Global Signature Grants Program of the U of M College of Education and Human Development (CEHD), and the Eurasia Foundation's U.S.–Russia University Partnership Program, ICI's Brian Abery and Renáta Tichá have now received additional funds to help grow an existing collaboration between ICI and KSPU that resulted in establishment of the International Institute on Progress Monitoring (IIPM) in Fall 2014. The new funding will go toward supporting ongoing academic and cultural exchange of ideas, research, priorities, and policies between the two countries, and help sustain IIPM long-term.

The IIPM and the newly-funded activities both build on ICI's work in progress monitoring, conducted through its Research Institute on Progress Monitoring from 2004-2009. Renáta was part of that center's research staff, which focused on developing a seamless and flexible system of student progress monitoring to be used in K-12 schools across ages, abilities, and curricula. The connection to KSPU developed as a result of an earlier visit to Russia by Christopher Johnstone, former CEHD Director of International Initiatives, and Greg Bartz of the White Bear Lake Rotary Club. That initial contact was followed with a trip by Brian and Renáta to Siberia, where they began the collaboration on the educational inclusion of students with disabilities. The goal of their current work is to develop and evaluate progress monitoring specifically designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities in Russia, as well as the U.S. This is a particularly timely project because of legislation passed in Russia in 2013 to promote the inclusion of Russian students with disabilities in public schools. "The IIPM and the progress monitoring measures being developed by ICI and KSPU are viewed by our Russian collaborators as an important tool in demonstrating the progress of their students in basic academic and functional areas," says Renáta, who is coordinator of the IIPM at ICI. "This information will be used to evaluate the impact of inclusive education and demonstrate its benefits for students with disabilities in Russia," she adds.

Among the activities supported with the new funding are adaptation of progress monitoring measures to the Russian language and educational system, and development and testing of an app for administering, scoring, and data display of progress monitoring assessment results on touch-screen tablets/computers. At this time, teachers in both the U.S. and Russia have no processes available to determine whether the academic instruction they are providing students with the most significant disabilities is effective, or if those students are acquiring the basic skills needed to access the general education curriculum. These students, a number of whom are non-verbal and only able to respond via a pointing response, have to date been left out of progress monitoring systems. The computer-based system under development will provide students with access to progress monitoring assessments, and give parents and teachers valuable feedback that will allow for the improvement of instruction. "Our hope is that this progress monitoring app will not only be of use in Russia in our current work, but also be a possible future tool for teachers all over the world to use with students who have a variety of educational challenges," states Brian.

FFI, contact Renáta at [tich0018@umn.edu](mailto:tich0018@umn.edu) or 612/624-5776.

## Staff Update

- **Staff Hires:** **Ryan Machtmes**, GRA, Adult Services; **Jillian Chmiel**, GRA, Certificate Program; **Kelly Ortenblad**, GRA, Adult Services; and **Emily Clary**, GRA, Transition. **Staff Departures:** **Allana Walsh**, GRA, Certificate Program; **Brittany VanHove**, GRA, Adult Services; **Cheryl Vanacora**, GRA, Transition; and **Renee Hepperlen**, GRA, Adult Services.
- The new 2015-16 LEND Fellows for the Minnesota Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities Program (MN LEND) are **Stephanie Abbas**, **Oluwatosin ("Tosin") Alabi**, **Mia Donley**, **Sunday Francis**, **Barite Gemada**, **Ashwak Hassan**, **Mary Hawkes**, **Kathryn Holt**, **Nicole Huelsman**, **Emma Jackson**, **Kim Kang-Adams**, **Kristen Kessler**, **Stephanie Benson**, **Michele Olson**, **Kara Schoeffel**, **Hiba Sharif**, and **Jessica Simacek**.
- **Joe Timmons** co-presented on preparing students with disabilities for post-secondary education at the PACER Center's annual symposium at the Minneapolis Convention Center, August 4.
- **Claire Benway** and **Nancy McCulloh** presented at the ARRM Technology Showcase in Bloomington, Minnesota, August 3-4. Nancy presented "The Right Training Changes Lives," while Claire co-presented "Understanding Wearable Fitness Technology for BioFeedback" and participated in two roundtable discussions on the College of Direct Support.

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## Dates to Remember...

- September 17: Pizza Forum, 12-1, 118 Pattee
- September 22: ICI Council, 10:30-12, 118 Pattee
- October 13: ICI Council, 10:30-12, 118 Pattee
- October 15: Pizza Forum, 12-1, 118 Pattee

## From the Front Office

News from ICI's Administrative Staff

- **ICI Award Nominations.** Nominations are being accepted for the ICI Future Leader Award and the ICI Excellence and Community Building Award. Nominations are due October 20 to Amy Kurowski (kuro0008@umn.edu, 102C Pattee Hall). FFI, visit <http://ici.umn.edu/intranet/awards.html#iciawards>. Questions? Contact Personnel Committee Chair, Jean Echternacht at [nessx008@umn.edu](mailto:nessx008@umn.edu).
- **Supervisors Approving Absence Requests.** Recently, there have been reports that, when supervisors get an automated e-mail saying they have absence requests to approve, they may get only a blank page when they click on the accompanying link. Supervisors can work around this problem by: Visiting MyU ([myu.umn.edu](http://myu.umn.edu)), clicking on the "Manager Info" tab, clicking on "Approve Absence" under the "Absence" header, and clicking on the name of the employee whose absence you want to approve. Questions? Contact Amy at [kuro0008@umn.edu](mailto:kuro0008@umn.edu).
- **Updated Phone List.** The ICI Staff List will be updated by the end of September. Refer to "ICI Staff Directory" under "Quicklinks" on Orpheus at <http://ici.umn.edu/intranet/index.html>. Please notify Amy at [kuro0008@umn.edu](mailto:kuro0008@umn.edu) of any changes.
- **Football Season Parking.** Just a friendly reminder that on home game days during football season, commuter students and faculty/staff with East Bank KEYCARD parking contracts should park in the East River Road Garage. East Bank surface lot HANGTAG location rules vary. Gopher home games are on 9/26, 10/17, 10/31, 11/21, and 11/28, while Vikings home

games are on 9/20, 9/27, 10/18, 11/8, 11/22, 12/6, 12/20, and 12/27. FFI, visit <http://www1.umn.edu/pts/park/gopherfb.html>.

- **Office Security.** Never leave your office open unattended. This is a high-theft time of year and thieves have proven to be crafty opportunists. If you are here after hours, it is wise to lock yourself in your office for your personal safety. Stay alert and call 911 or 4-COPS if you need emergency assistance or witness suspicious behavior. Refer to ICI's Emergency Building Plan found on Orpheus (<http://ici.umn.edu/intranet>) as well.
- **Pattee Hall Building Hours.** Building hours are 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. Outside of these hours, building access is by activated UCard. Hours for the kitchen, Room 110, and Room 118 are 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., as maintained by Room 102 staff. Turn off lights and lock the doors to your areas (including suites) as you leave for the night or we may face security fines and/or theft. Also, make sure windows are closed and locked. If you open a window, close it when you leave.
- **Building and Land-care.** For any building or land-care concerns, please report via e-mail to [kuro0008@umn.edu](mailto:kuro0008@umn.edu) and [halv0183@umn.edu](mailto:halv0183@umn.edu). Reporting via e-mail minimizes interruptions to Front Office employees and allows them to keep documented records.
- **Computer/Technical Issues.** For computer and technical issues, please place a request in Coconut (<http://coconut.umn.edu/education>).

## Miscellaneous

- **Disability Resource Center Training.** The University of Minnesota Disability Resource Center (DRC) has launched a short online training video developed to help instructors serve students with disabilities. The 12-minute video uses instructors' real-life experiences. FFI, visit <https://www.brainshark.com/trainedsolutions/umn-disability>.
- **Birthdays.** Quannah Parker-McGowan (9/20), Merrie Haskins (9/25), Jennifer Hall-Lande (9/26), Karen Sheahan (9/26), Kristi Liu (10/7), Kelly Ortenblad (10/14), Lindsey Zemanek (10/15), Lucy Evans (10/16), and Brian Abery (10/17). Did we miss your birthday? Let us know! Call 4-2380 or e-mail [kuro0008@umn.edu](mailto:kuro0008@umn.edu).

## Bits & Pieces

New Publications and Web Resources

- **New Publications.** The following new ICI publications are available:
  - *NCEO Data Analytics 2: 2012-13 Publicly Reported Assessment Results for Students with Disabilities and ELLs with Disabilities* (August 2015). Published by the Institute's National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO). Available on the Web at [https://preview.nceo.umn.edu/Resources/tools/data\\_visualization](https://preview.nceo.umn.edu/Resources/tools/data_visualization).
  - *Policy Research Brief: The U.N. Convention on The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD): A Status Report* (September 2015). Published by the Institute's Research and Training Center on Community Living (RTC). Available on the Web in an interactive, data visualization format at <http://rtc.umn.edu/prb/252/>.
- **Journal Article on Public Benefits vs. Individual Employment.** Derek Nord and Kelly Nye-Lengerman co-authored, "The Negative Effects of Public Benefits on Individual Employment: A Multilevel Analysis of Work Hours," which was published in August in *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*, 53(4) – the journal of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. The article is available on the Web at doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1352/1934-9556-53.4.308>.
- **Journal Article on Community Supports.** Matthew Bogenschutz (formerly of ICI), Derek Nord, and Amy Hewitt co-authored, "Competency-Based Training and Worker Turnover in Community Supports for People With IDD: Results From a Group Randomized Controlled Study," which was published in June in *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*, 53(3). The article is available on the Web at doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1352/1934-9556-53.3.182>.
- **FYI Deadline.** Items for the next FYI should be submitted to Tom ([donag003@umn.edu](mailto:donag003@umn.edu)) by October 9.