

## 5 More Years! UAP Funding Renewed

The Institute on Community Integration has been awarded federal funding for five more years of operation as a federally-designated University Affiliated Program on Developmental Disabilities (UAP). "Receiving five-year funding signifies that the Institute has a strong national presence, and that the value of our work is recognized at the federal level," says Institute director, David R. Johnson. The renewed funding is based on a favorable evaluation conducted by a team of peer reviewers last winter, and on the reapplication submitted this past spring.

The Institute – then called the Minnesota University Affiliated Program on Developmental Disabilities – began in 1985 with fewer than 20 staff and a budget of roughly \$400,000. In early 1989, the name was changed to Institute on Community Integration. Today, the Institute and its three affiliated centers – the Research and Training Center on Community Living, the National Transition Network, and the Early Childhood Research Institute on Measuring Growth and Development – encompass more than 50 projects staffed by over 150 people, and secure just over \$7.6 million in external and University funding. The UAP grant award of \$200,000 per year from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is used to support the Institute infrastructure, including accounting, human resources, computer, and publications services, as well as the Director position.

As the Institute continues to build on its 13-year history, specific priorities emerge for the near future, based in part on the evaluation recommendations:

- **Strengthen ties between the Institute and other units within the College of Education and Human Development**, improving coordination and alignment of Institute work with the teaching mission of the College. Included is incorporating the Institute's Developmental Disabilities Certificate Program into the University-wide semester conversion process and the work of departments.
- **Strengthen the Institute's programmatic relationship with the University's Department of Pediatrics and Adolescent Health Program** by jointly funding a neurodevelopmental pediatrician position to support the ongoing training of pediatric residents and other medical and health practitioners who will serve young people with developmental disabilities and their families.
- **Further expand the Institute's nationally-recognized use of information technology** in the areas of electronic dissemination of research findings, data management, evaluation, and distance learning.
- **Create new opportunities for College and other University faculty to participate** with the Institute in key research programs in educational policy, design of school services and instructional interventions, and adult services.
- **Strengthen the Institute's school-age services area**, placing additional emphasis on the relationship of inclusion and special education to educational reform.

## Staff Update

- **New staff: Amanda Voight**, Community Program Associate, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Project; **Ron Spoelstra**, Coordinator, South Carolina Project.
- **Departing staff: Jessica Mooney**, Publications Office Manager.
- **Jean Ness** is speaking at the Association of Higher Education and Disability Services in Las Vegas at the end of July. She'll speak on the Circle of Learning Project.
- **Bob Prouty** moderated a panel discussion on current pilot and demonstration projects for services to Minnesotans with mental retardation and related developmental disabilities at the Putting People First II conference, June 9-10, at Dakota County Technical College.
- **Shannon Kim**, a doctoral intern from the University of Mississippi, is spending the summer working with the Research and Training Center on Community Living.
- **Shauna McDonald** and husband Sean had a baby boy, Kieran Sean, July 2nd.
- **Karyn Sullivan**, RA for the Research and Training Center on Community Living, married Arthur Colombo on July 10. **Stacey Koscielek**, RA on the All Means All project, will marry Tom McGill on July 25.

## Dates to Remember . . .

- Wednesday, July 22: **Civil Service Staff Get-Together.** Noon - 1 pm.
- July 16, 21, 29, & Aug. 2: **Online Reporting System Orientation Sessions**

## From the Front Office

News from ICI's Administrative Staff

- **Orientation to New ICI Online Reporting System.** The Institute is implementing an online system to replace the handwritten reporting forms used to collect ICI's annual project and staff data for AAUAP. All staff responsible for reporting data about project and personnel activities to ICI administration are asked to attend one of four upcoming orientation sessions. Dates and times are: July 16, 9:30-10:30; July 21, 10-11; July 29, 1-2 pm; August 6, 9-10 am. Sessions are in 118 Pattee. FFI call Kathie Wolff (4-2380).
- **Vacation Records.** P & A staff academic vacation records for last quarter (April - June) are now due to Beth Nelson.
- **ICI Council Update.** At the June meeting, the council discussed the Institute's Interdisciplinary Studies in Developmental Disabilities Certificate Program, the new AAUAP online reporting system being implemented at ICI, and the council's fall retreat. Meetings will resume in September.
- **Staff Messages.** One way that ICI staff are notified of ICI events, training opportunities, and announcements is by group voice mail. All staff should be receiving these voice mail messages from Kathie Wolff and others. If you haven't been getting the messages, please contact Kathie at 4-2380 to get on the list.

## Miscellaneous

- **Computer Available.** The Together We're Better project has a computer available. It's a Mac LC with an 80mb external drive, 40mb internal drive, and Mac monitor. FFI see Lynn Walz, 106 Pattee, 6-7233.
- **Training Announcements.** If you receive announcements about training events that may be of interest to direct support professionals, please give the information to Kurtis Scaletta (204 Pattee, 4-1349) to be posted on the Direct Support Professionals Website.
- **Beacons of Excellence Project Seeks Nominations.** ICI's Beacons of Excellence Project is working to increase understanding of how schools can improve learning results for students with disabilities. The project is identifying and studying secondary schools that are achieving exemplary learning results for students with disabilities in the context of efforts to achieve exemplary results for all students. Currently, the project is accepting school nominations; selected schools will then participate in an 18-24 month study. The nomination deadline is September 17. FFI contact Tom Bartholomay, 111 Pattee, 4-5776.
- **Special Ed Directory.** Anyone desiring a copy of the current Minnesota Directors of Special Education Directory (compiled by the Department of Children, Families and Learning) should contact Kathie Wolff, 4-2380.
- **Birthdays.** Bill Latimer (7/15); Barb Polister (7/16); Khanh Bao Nguyen (7/17); Mike Ryan (7/20); Arly Piri (7/22); Donna Patterson (7/25); Traci Woollums (7/27); Darrell Lewis (7/31); Carol Davis (8/2); Jennifer Utermarck (8/2); John Sauer (8/9).

## Bits & Pieces

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

- **Web Group Update**
- **June/July Activities.** ICI's Web Coordination Group met in June to begin revising the ICI Web Use Policies passed by the Institute Council three years ago. At the July meeting, the group will continue the process of developing policies and procedures that reflect the requirements of the College and University, as well as the needs of ICI projects and the best uses of the technology. Once finalized, the revised policies will be presented to the Institute Council for approval. FFI contact ICI Web Coordinator Megan Dushin at 6-8649.
- **Publications Staff Update, New Publications,**
- **Short-Staffed.** For the remainder of July (and probably part of August) the Office Manager position in the Publications Office will be vacant. During the day, Connie or Vicki are available to handle urgent requests that previously would have gone to Jessica. From 10-noon on most days Jon Schmidt, a student assistant on loan from the front office, will be available to take phone messages and help people find publications in the cabinets and storeroom. Requests for mailing lists, large quantities of materials to take to conferences, and other dissemination-related needs will be handled by Stacy in the evenings; you may leave messages for her on the desk behind the door, or with any of the three daytimers.
- **Hot Off the Press.** Newly arrived are the latest issue of *What's Working in Transition* and the summer edition of the *ICI Publications Catalog*.