Monitor Newsletter July 12, 1999

Bowling Green State University

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Families of children with severe disabilities to benefit from grant to intervention services

Today, public education is responsible for educating all students with disabilities. Unfortunately, public schools and their personnel do not always have the expertise and training to deal with the wide spectrum of disabilities, especially children with more severe disabilities. Thanks to a three-year, $873,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education, awarded to the Division of Intervention Services, professionals will be trained specifically to work with young children with intensive disabilities and their families.

Graduate students are being recruited to participate in the two-year training program, called Project FOCUS. It's designed to meet the requirements for Ohio's Early Intervention Certificate (for serving infants and toddlers with special needs) and Project Enhance Specialist License (for serving preschool and primary-age children with disabilities). "Nowadays, we have more and more children with multiple and complex needs who are surviving," according to project Director Colleen Mandell, intervention services. "They and their families need support to help the children be all they can be. The family has to be part of the component—we're committed to providing support to the family as well as training our professionals, through education, therapy, whatever is needed."

"The program is designed to prepare professionals to work with the very young children (to age 8) who have intensive disabilities," Mandell said. "And that would involve multiple special needs, such as motor delays, sensory impairments, etc. Many of these disabilities are identified at birth."

Intervention services is also beginning its third year of Project Enhance, a three-year program which received more than $741,000 in federal education funding. "Project Enhance was designed to develop a graduate-level training program specifically to meet the needs of children with significant disabilities and their families," Mandell said.

"Through our experiences with Project Enhance," she said, "our priority was the belief that all children belong in community-based programs. We also believe families are the children's best teachers. Based on that experience, we refined the program. Project FOCUS will develop a co-facilitated parent-professional training model at the graduate level. We believe you must include the parents in the actual planning, preparing, implementation and evaluation of graduate-level early education."

As the program evolves, Mandell said, a Web site will be developed to provide information and assistance "to anyone online—anyone with an interest in children with disabilities, such as teachers or parents. The Web site will be advertised in journals, at seminars. A network already exists in Ohio that is designed to identify children and help families find resources, and we'll tap into that."

With Project FOCUS, Mandell said, "we'll develop a statewide training model to work with programs that offer two-year associate degrees in early childhood education throughout Ohio."

"We need to educate people that there are a lot of different ways to do the same thing," Mandell said. "We need to teach professionals to deal with the strengths of the child, which will result in more opportunities for the child."

Coursework in Project FOCUS is balanced with in-class work that includes assessment and interventions, technology, augmentative communication, American Sign Language, and behavioral and ecological management.

The second year of the program is field-based, according to Mandell, with internship placements in infant/toddler programs, preschools and primary community-based programs, parent advocacy and support groups, and medical day-treatment programs for young children.

"Our professionals learn how to work with a lot of different people from the community," she said, "and they learn to deal with all different types of families. We believe in diversity of families, and we want our professionals to have skill working with all families."

To apply for a Project FOCUS graduate assistantship, applicants must have an undergraduate degree in either special education or early childhood education. Students selected to participate will receive free tuition and a $10,000 stipend for each academic year.

"We've had a lot of support from the University," Mandell said. "Most universities prepare professionals to work with milder special needs, but our program will focus on children with severe needs and that's uncommon."

Dobb meeting classified staff to discuss compensation plan

Linda Dobb, interim provost and vice president for academic affairs, has scheduled a meeting with classified staff for 2 p.m. today (July 12) in 101B Ogburn Hall.

Supervisors are encouraged to allow staff to attend the meeting, whose purpose is to discuss the compensation plan approved by the Board of Trustees June 28.

A meeting with classified staff who work other shifts will be scheduled for a future date.

OPIE's going away in three weeks

As previously announced, the VAX 6620—commonly known as OPIE—is being decommissioned as part of the University's ongoing "Y2K" initiatives.

Interactive logins will be disabled Aug. 2. Faculty and staff using OPIE as their email system should begin transferring to BGNET as soon as possible.

The service to submit batch jobs to RADAR will be provided by TRAPPER, which will require application for a TRAPPER account at the Technology Support Center, 129 Hayes Hall.

For more information, contact TSC at 2-0999 or email tsc@bignet.bgsu.edu.
in brief

Helpers, participants sought for Games

The sixth annual Ohio/Canada Games are coming to Bowling Green Aug. 6-8, and organizers are seeking volunteers and families willing to host participants in their homes.

Volunteers are needed to man the welcome center, help with adult and youth social activities and serve as sport game officials. The games are open to people of all ages. Activities include a nature walk, baseball, disc and regular golf, beach volleyball, soccer, ice hockey, lawn and 10-pin bowling, softball and swimming.

For more information, call the city Parks and Recreation Office at 354-6223 or Joanne Sommers, family and consumer sciences, at 2-7626.

Fire training exercise scheduled

The Bowling Green Fire Division will conduct a high-rise training exercise from 8:15-11 a.m. Tuesday (July 13) at the Education Building. The rain date is Thursday (July 15).

The exercise will include a simulation of fire situations which often occur in multiple-story buildings. Several fire division vehicles will be stationed outside the building, and firefighters will use the stairways to move hoses and other equipment to the upper floors.

A campaign for the center has raised more than $1.9 million of its $2.5 million goal, including $1 million from Cedar Point. State funds will cover the balance of the cost. Construction is to begin next year.

Talent Bank needs human capital

Wanted: people with professional expertise, master's or doctoral degrees, all-around general knowledge and wisdom. The provost's office is building a BSUI Talent Bank of such people to provide a resource pool that would help students in various ways. Among them: "work with Springboard, give talks to student organizations, provide hands-on shadowing opportunities for students in different academic departments, provide students with information on careers to help our career services office (and) talk with students who are seeking help from academic enhancement but don't understand why writing is so important in the world of work," according to Fiona MacKinnon-Slaney, provost's office.

The Talent Bank will be built from alumni, University and community people. MacKinnon-Slaney said. To that end, she has already contacted classified and administrative staff, and Larry Weiss, director of alumni and governmental affairs, is helping her develop an alumni letter and contact list.

"In addition, we will be contacting the spouses and partners of our new Ph.D. hires," she said, and community members will be contacted through the chamber of commerce or other local resources.

"As we focus on student success, we are hoping to provide additional resources from departments and administrative units in the University." MacKinnon-Slaney said.

Anyone interested in participating, or who knows someone who might be interested, may contact her at 2-7387 or email fmackin@bgsu.edu. With permission, participants' names, resumes and area of expertise will be forwarded to academic departments, the career planning and placement office and the academic enhancement office, and will be kept on file in the provost's office, she said.

Firelands gets $30,000 for classroom

A $30,000 gift from the FirstEnergy Foundation will fund a state-of-the-art classroom in the Cedar Point Center at Firelands College.

The classroom will be named for FirstEnergy Corp., the parent company of Toledo Edison and Ohio Edison. It will be part of a 55 million center which will function as an "Educational Opportunity Center," providing lifelong learning opportunities to students from high school age through retirement.

A campaign for the center has raised more than $1.9 million of its $2.5 million goal, including $1 million from Cedar Point. State funds will cover the balance of the cost. Construction is to begin next year.

FACULTY

job postings

FACULTY

Contact human resources at 372-8421 for information regarding the following:

CLASSIFIED
Deadline for employees to apply is noon Friday (July 16).

- Secretary 1 (C-100-V)—Career Services. Pay grade 6.

The following positions are also being listed off campus.

Deadline to apply is noon, July 23.

- Cashier 1 (C-104 and 105-M)—Dining Services. Two nine-month, part-time positions. Pay grade 1.

Musician Calendar...