



*The Insider*

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## Life Span Institute at Parsons

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**January, 2004**

**Pat White, Editor**

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### **Honors and Awards**

### **Legislative Testimony**

Sara Sack, Director of several projects relating to assistive technology and persons with disabilities and Associate Professor of Research at the University of Kansas Life Span Institute-Parsons, testified twice before the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. In both the December 11, 2003 and the January 15, 2004 testimony, Dr. Sack served as lead presenter before the Senate Committee and provided the organizing structure and importance of the state Technology Act Projects. She detailed the operation of the Kansas Technology Act program, Assistive Technology for Kansans, which is coordinated by the Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities at Parsons. After the initial presentations, the presenters responded to questions regarding access to technology, program design, and unmet needs.

### **Appointments**

**David Lindeman** has been appointed by Governor Kathleen Sebelius for a second term to the Kansas Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services. The term of this appointment is December 2003 to July 2007. The purpose of the advisory council is to ensure that a comprehensive service delivery system of integrated services is available in Kansas to all children with or at risk of developmental delays or disabilities, from birth through age 5, and their families. It is also the responsibility of the council to advise state government on matters pertaining to this system and services.

**Sara Sack** was elected to the Executive Board of the Association of Technology Act Projects (ATAP). Sara will serve a 3-year term on this national organization. ATAP's membership is comprised of business partners, non-profit organizations, and Technology Act grantees focused on increasing access to technology for persons with disabilities.

**Chris Smith** has been asked to serve as a member on the national Association of University Centers on Disabilities Medicaid Workgroup and will also be serving as the President of the Board of Directors for the Kansas Communities in Schools for 2004-2005. **Chris** is also serving on the Editorial Review Service for the *American Journal of Evaluation*.

### **Award Nomination**

In September, **Barbara Fabrycky** was nominated by the Director of the Kansas Association of Child Care Resources and Referral Agencies for the National Child Care Provider Service Award for 2003.

## **Media Services Changes Name and Mission**

Beginning January 1, 2004, Media Services changed its name to the LSI Media Laboratory to correspond to a new mission. Media Services has traditionally occupied a unique position within the ranks of the Life Span Institute providing services related to graphic arts and video production. Because the realm of information and multimedia technologies is rapidly evolving, the focus of the new Media Laboratory will be research and application of digital technologies to enhance the lives of people with disabilities, augment teaching and learning in the classroom, and communicate and express ideas. The LSI Media Laboratory will support research and development in information, communication, and publishing technologies.

Located on the Parsons campus of the Life Span Institute, the LSI Media Laboratory has a 40-year history of film, videotape, and print media production in conjunction with grant-supported projects. The LSI Media Laboratory is the location of a state-of-the-art facility for the production of video and print materials, closed captioning, multimedia production, video conferencing and distance learning, and a television and film studio. Modern production equipment and software tools are used for the production of electronic media, graphic arts, and Web sites. Existing services include digital photography, digital video recording and editing, closed captioning, and Web page development.

The Media Lab will provide a unique environment for exploring and developing applications using digital technologies and multimedia. Research conducted by the Media Lab will include the use of information and communication technologies in classrooms, planning and evaluation of technology and innovative programs, development and evaluation of online learning applications, Web accessibility, and assistive technologies including video captioning and description. These ventures supported by collaborations with other programs and projects within the Life Span Institute and the University of Kansas will broaden the Media Lab research community.

The Media Lab will continue to provide design, development, and technical support for Institute, University, and external programs and projects including technology planning and evaluation, Web site design and development, graphic design and layout, video production, and captioning.

For more information about the Media Lab, contact Dr. Steve Mills, Director of the LSI Media Laboratory, at [stevem@ku.edu](mailto:stevem@ku.edu) or browse the Media Lab Web site at <http://media.lsi.ku.edu>.

## **Grants Awarded**

Freeman, R., Smith, C., & Zarcone, J. The Kansas Institute for Positive Behavior Support. Third year funding at \$496,862.

Smith, C. SEK-CAP Mental Health Contract to Facilitate Early Childhood Mental Health and Parenting Programs. \$5,000.

## **Presentations**

Pamela Cress presented a Train-the-Trainer Workshop for Kansas Infant-Toddler Services Vision Screeners in Wichita on January 23, 2004.

### **Publications**

Bejarano, R., Williams, D. C., & Perone, M. (2003). Pausing on multiple schedules: Toward a laboratory model of escape-motivated behavior. *Experimental Analysis of Human Behavior Bulletin*, 21, 18-20.

Doughty, A. H., Cirino, S., Mayfield, K. H., da Silva, S. P., Okouchi, H., & Lattal, K. A. (in press). Effects of behavioral history on resistance to change. *The Psychological Record*.

Doughty, A. H., Meginley, M. E., Haag, S. S., & Lattal, K. A. (in press). Psychological distance to reward: Equating the number of stimulus and response segments. *Behavioural Processes*.

Doughty, A. H., Reed, P., & Lattal, K. A. (in press). Differential reinstatement predicted by pre-extinction response rate. *Psychonomic Bulletin and Review*.

## **Project Highlight**

### **FUNDS FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FINANCIAL LOAN PROGRAMS by Sara Sack**

The University of Kansas at Parsons received an award from the U.S. Department of Education to create and operate a financial loan program to support persons with disabilities in personally financing assistive technology devices and services. Dr. Sara Sack will direct this \$9.8 million effort to develop a partnership between the State Technology Act Program, Assistive Technology for Kansas, and the Kansas Assistive Technology Cooperative, a community-based organization directed by persons with disabilities. The Kansas Alternative Finance Program is part of the New Freedom Initiative introduced by President Bush.

The University of Kansas at Parsons also received one of 20 awards made by the U.S. Department of Education to support the expansion of Telework activities for persons with disabilities. Working by distance, either at home, away from the office, or at a telecenter can reduce or eliminate barriers to employment such as inadequate transportation, fatigue, inaccessible work environments, and the need for personal assistance experienced by persons with disabilities. The Kansas Telework Program will work with persons with disabilities and their employers to expand financial loan opportunities for the purchase of assistive technology devices and services needed for tele-employment. Dr. Sara Sack will direct this \$1 million effort to increase employment options for persons with disabilities.

Additional information is available at <http://www.katco.net> or by contacting:

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## **Staff News**

At the request of the Kansas State Department of Education, David Lindeman attended the National Association of State Boards of Education-Early Childhood Network Conference. As a member of a team the outcome from the conference will be the development of a small grant application for early childhood activities in the state.