



The Insider

Life Span Institute at Parsons

November, 2003

Pat White, Editor

Honors and Awards

Allen Crim of Parsons UCDD was honored during the luncheon and received the “President’s Award” at the 2003 Interhab (The Resource Network for Kansans with Disabilities) Annual Conference held at the Edwin C. Eilert Ballroom of the Overland Park Convention Center, Overland Park, KS on October 3rd.

Allen is project manager of Coordinated Resource and Support Services, a program that provides valuable supports to individuals with a dual diagnosis of mental retardation and mental illness. Allen works closely with Tri-Valley Developmental Services and CLASS LTD, along with five mental health centers in the counties served by those CDDOs. Additionally, individuals served by other community service providers such as New Beginnings, Tri-Ko, Connections, Bridges, New Hope and Southeast Kansas Independent Living Center have also benefited.

Allen has worked diligently for the past 9 years to fill the gaps between mental health and developmental disability services. When a crisis develops, Allen assesses the situation with the case manager and then coordinates efforts for a successful intervention. Allen is a genuinely good and honest person.

Allen is an expert in immediate crisis management. This often includes Allen working 24-hours straight, one-on-one to manage the individual’s behavior and address his/her needs. He constantly works to improve services provided by CRSS and has earned the respect of area disability professionals and the families of those he serves.

Grants Submitted

Dick and Muriel Saunders submitted “Improving Quality of Life in People with Profound Multiple Impairment” (R01 to NICHD) October 1, 2003.

Steven Mills submitted a new, 3-year proposal “STAR-IT: Science Through Astronomy, Research and Information Technology” to NSF on October 17, 2003.

Dean Williams resubmitted his 3-year RO1 proposal “Laboratory Models of Maladaptive Escape Behaviors” to NICHD on November 1, 2003.

Grants Awarded

Steve Mills’ new grant is Kids Crew: The Independence Community Learning Center, \$558,472 over 5 years (University of Kansas subcontract to Independence, Kansas School District 446, \$37,500 over 5 years), Kansas 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program, Kansas State Department of Education.

Sara Sack was awarded a \$10.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education the U.S. Rehabilitation Services Administration and the State of Kansas. The grant, announced by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, will greatly expand the ability of the Kansas Assistive Technology Cooperative (KATCO), established in 2000, to make low-cost loans for assistive technology to people with disabilities by stabilizing the cooperative’s flexible loan program.

Sara Sack received a new 1-year dual award “Kansas Telework Program” from the Department of Education Rehabilitation Services Administration, with matching funds from the Kansas Social and Rehabilitation Services, which began October 1, 2003.

Sara Sack received a new 1-year dual award “Kansas Alternative Finance Program” from the Department of Education National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, with matching funds from the Kansas Social and Rehabilitation Services, which began October 1, 2003.

Presentations

Freeman, R. (2003, May). *The Kansas Institute for Positive Behavior Support: A Systems Change and Training System for Positive Behavior Support and Person-centered Planning*. Presentation to Virginia's Steering Committee on Positive Behavior Support, Richmond, VA.

Freeman, R. (2003, September). *Kansas Institute for Positive Behavior Support*. Presentation to the Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board of Kansas and Kansas Department of Social & Rehabilitation Services/Division of Health Care Policy, Community Supports & Services, Topeka, KS.

Freeman, R., & Kidwell, P. (2003, October). *Using online instruction in positive behavior support*. Presentation at the Interhab Annual Conference, Overland Park, KS.

Hellings, J., Olson, K., & Black-Moore, P. (2003, October). *An introduction to autism and co-existing disorders*. Presentation at the Interhab Annual Conference, Overland Park, KS.

Jack, S. L. (2003, September). *Integrating positive behavior support in home-based programs*. Presentation to the SEK-CAP Head Start Staff, Parsons, KS.

Jack, S. L., & Lindeman, D. P. (2003, October). *Developing positive behavior support in Head Start programs*. Paper presented at the International Conference on Children and Youth with Behavior Disorders, St. Louis, MO.

Lindeman, D. P., Campbell, M., Deluccie, H., & Thompson, B. (2003, September). *Early childhood teacher training redesign: University collaboration*. Paper presented at the Gardner-Edgerton Innovative Instruction Fair, Gardner, KS.

Lindeman, D. P., Deluccie, M. F., & Schewitzer, J. (2003, October). *Early childhood license: What are our colleges and universities doing?* Paper presented at the 41st Annual Conference of the Kansas Federation of the Council for Exceptional Children, Hutchinson, KS.

Lindeman, D. P., Horn, E., Mitchell, L., Campbell, M., McConnell, J., & York, M. (2003, October). *Building resources to implement a Unified Early Childhood Education Licensure: The Kansas experience*. Paper presented at the 2003 Division for Early Childhood Annual Conference, Washington, DC.

Mills, Steven C. (2003, October). *Implementing online high school programs: An evaluation study*. A paper presented at the Association for Educational Communications and Technology International Conference, Anaheim, CA..

Rasmussen, K., & Cress, P. (2003, October). *Kansas Equipment Exchange*. Presentation at the 41st Annual Conference of the Kansas Federation of the Council for Exceptional Children, Hutchinson, KS.

Sack, S., Cress, P., & Simmons, S. (2003, October). *Survey of AAC users: Factors that influence outcomes*. Poster presentation at Kansas Speech-Language Hearing Association, Wichita, KS.

- Sack, S., McDonald, G., & Simmons, S. (2003, October). *Increasing self-directed services among persons with developmental disabilities*. Paper presentation at the Interhab Annual Conference, Overland Park, KS.
- Smith, C., Freeman, R., & Zarcone, J. (2003, September). *Kansas Institute for Positive Behavior Support*. Presentation and collaborative discussion with SRS Quality Enhancement Coordinators, Topeka, KS.
- Smith, C., & Zarcone, J. (2003, October). *Panel discussion about the Kansas Institute for Positive Behavior Support*. Presentation at the Interhab Annual Conference, Overland Park, KS.
- Stewart, K., Suchowierska, M., Chaney, L., & Saunders, K. (2003, October). *Adults with mental retardation recombine within-syllable units to spell novel words*. Poster presentation at the 20th annual meeting of the Southeastern Association for Behavior Analysis, Greenville, SC.
- Suchowierska, M., Stewart, K. L., & Saunders, K. J. (2003, October). *Preschool children show recombinative generalization in spelling three-letter words*. Poster presentation at the 20th annual meeting of the Southeastern Association for Behavior Analysis, Greenville, SC.

Products

- Freeman, R., Zarcone, J., Kidwell, P., Smith, C., & Wickham, D. (2002). (Module 7) *Designing positive behavior support plans* [Online]. Lawrence, KS: University of Kansas UCDD. Available: <http://www.kipbs.lsi.ku.edu>
- Smith, C., Freeman, R., Wickham, D., Kidwell, P., & Houghton, J., (2003). (Module 9) *Systems Change* [Online]. Lawrence, KS: University of Kansas UCDD. Available: <http://www.kipbs.lsi.ku.edu>
- Zarcone, J., Freeman, R., Kidwell, P., Smith, C., & Wickham, D. (2002). (Module 8) *Emotional and behavioral health* [Online]. Lawrence, KS: University of Kansas UCDD. Available: <http://www.kipbs.lsi.ku.edu>
- Zarcone, J., Freeman, R., Smith, C., Wickham, D., Houghton, J., & Kidwell, P. (2003). (Module 6) *Multi-component interventions* [Online]. Lawrence, KS: University of Kansas UCD. Available: www.kipbs.lsi.ku.edu

Publications

- Mills, S. C., & Roblyer, M. D. (in press). Implementing online high school programs: An evaluation study. In M. R. Simonson (Ed.), *Proceedings of selected research and development presentations at the 2003 National Convention of the Association for Educational Communications and Technology: Research and Theory Division, AECT*. Ames, IA.
- Saunders, R. R. (in press). Residential and day services. In J. Jacobson & J. Mulick (Eds.), *Handbook of intellectual and developmental disabilities*. New York: Kluwer.
- Saunders, R. R., & Saunders, M. D. (in press). In search of contingency learning: Something old, something new, something borrowed. *Behavioral Development Bulletin*.

Project Highlight

Enhancing Education Through Technology: Technology Rich Classrooms by Steve Mills

The information-age worker is expected to process large amounts of information on the job and to create the knowledge needed to solve a problem or make a decision. There is evidence, however, that those living in rural areas and at the lowest income levels are among those with the least access to information technologies. When schools lack access to the teaching and learning tools afforded through information technology, students are at a growing disadvantage.

Because many elementary schools in rural Kansas have high rates of low-income students, there is a substantial need for assistance in providing access to information technology to these “rural poor” schools and students. Academic indicators among these “rural poor” schools reinforce the need for an enriched learning environment as early as 4th and 5th grade. Although these schools design plans for students improvement and experience some limited success, often the resources are simply not available to realistically implement these improvement plans in a way that substantially impacts student achievement.

Technology-enhanced classrooms that are rich in learning resources and opportunities within the curriculum offer an approach for moving students from lower performing levels to upper performing levels. Students who are economically and/or academically disadvantaged and have the least access to technology resources are often those who stand to gain the most from the technology-enhanced, resource-rich classrooms and curricula. Therefore, the Technology Rich Classroom project targets many schools across Kansas with the highest need for assistance.

The Technology Rich Classrooms project is funded by \$150,000 grants from the Kansas State Department of Education. In the first round of grants, twelve partnerships comprised of two schools or two schools and an education service center were funded. Steve Mills, Director of LSI Media Services at Parsons, and a Research Assistant Professor, wrote grants for two of the twelve partnerships that were funded statewide. These partnerships include elementary schools in Atchison, Holton, Marmaton Valley, and Yates Center and the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center. Mills and Media Services provide local evaluation and technical support for these projects.

The Technology Rich Classrooms project allows pilot classrooms in selected school districts to demonstrate the benefits of teaching and learning in classrooms enhanced with abundant technology resources. The goals for this project are intended to articulate a vision of transforming classrooms into technology-enhanced, student-centered, active learning environments. The following list of program components provides a retrospective of the Technology Rich Classrooms project:

- *Plan, design and implement technology-enhanced, resource-rich, student-centered, active learning environments in 4th and 5th grade classrooms.* The project establishes a Project Leadership Team; employs a Trainer/Mentor to provide on-going instructional support and mentoring for teacher participants; and formulates a matrix of technology integration best practices to use for local project evaluation.
- *Transform classrooms into resource-rich, student-centered, active learning environments through the infusion of technology into the teaching and learning process, the curriculum, the classroom environment, and assessment activities.* The project acquires appropriate computer hardware and software and installs it in two 4th and/or 5th grade classrooms at each elementary school; provides technology professional development activities through summer workshops for the project trainer, teacher participants, and principals; and provides weekly in-classroom mentoring and instructional support and on-demand access to the Trainer/Mentor through Internet videoconferencing.

- *Improve student performance in targeted curriculum areas and enhance higher-level and critical thinking skills of students.* The project develops and deploys curriculum-based, technology-enhanced instructional activities and evaluation rubrics for assessing learning process and products; integrates a teaching-and-learning-with-technology pedagogy in the classroom; facilitates communication and supports cooperative learning between teachers and students and between schools through Internet videoconferencing; collects and compares standardized test scores for curriculum areas targeted by the school improvement plan; develops and administers criterion-based assessments for curriculum areas targeted by the school improvement plan; and administers a cognitive abilities test to examine the critical thinking skills of all 4th and 5th grade students.
- *Disseminate information about the project and related instructional activities and lesson plans to district faculty, parents, and other schools.* The project publishes technology-enhanced lesson plans on the school district Web site; provides teaching/learning opportunities for students to showcase learning products through open house functions or a school technology fair; conducts in-service sessions and workshops on technology integration to prepare teachers who did not participate in the pilot project; and conducts presentations at Kansas Technology Leadership conferences and other local, state, or regional conferences.

In summary, the Technology Rich Classrooms project is intended to contribute to improved student performance, to better prepare students to compete and cope in the information age, to foster communication and collaboration among educators, to increase communication between schools and parents, to train educators in the new pedagogy supported by the use of technology tools, and to promote teaching and learning with technology to other classrooms in the school and district.

Mills plans to write four proposals in partnership with the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center at Greenbush for the 2004 Technology Rich Classroom competition.

Staff News

Allen Crim was one of the best in the Kansas Senior Olympics (October 9-25 through 10-5, 2003) track and field competition held at the Washburn Rural track in Topeka. He placed 2nd in the 200 meter race, 2nd in the high jump, 2nd in the standing long jump, and 3rd in the long jump (running). He also placed 3rd in the 100 meters, but due to an error in timing was given 5th. He also competed in the tennis competition, but didn't place. One of his better efforts was in the standing long jump where he jumped 7'4" to miss 1st by only a half inch. Congratulations Allen!

LSI Employee Evaluation Form

The new and improved LSI employee evaluation form will premier online at the LSI website **Monday, November 17**, at <http://www.lsi.ku.edu/lsi/internal/evaluation.html>. The form should be used for evaluations reflecting job performance during the 2003 calendar year that are due beginning late April 2004.