A Note from the Executive Director, Cayte Anderson, Ph.D., CRC

Warm greetings from SVRI! I have been in my new role as the SVRI Executive Director for roughly two months, and each day have the pleasure of making new discoveries about our high quality research and services and the talented staff who make it possible. As many of you know, John Lui, our Executive Director for the past 13 years, has transitioned into a new role as the SVRI Director of Research and Knowledge Mobilization. This position is key as we continue expanding our research relationships and support the evidence-based practice movement in our field.

As a public university partner, we have the flexibility to work well with colleagues across systems and actively contribute valuable knowledge and expertise in the areas of program evaluation, research, service delivery innovation, knowledge translation and mobilization (i.e. moving research into practice), fidelity maximization, training, and project management. We also value our strong relationships with campus partners within the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences (CEHHS) and beyond and look forward to pursuing collaborative opportunities in the future.

SVRI has a rich tradition of service delivery and you can expect to see us continuing to innovate in this area. In 2014, we provided key services to approximately 377 individuals with disabilities in support of their integrated, community-based employment goals. Professional development and training opportunities abound at SVRI, please check our website regularly for updated information http://www.uwstout.edu/svri. We also welcome you to connect with us via Facebook and Twitter.

We look forward to sharing upcoming events and information with you in upcoming editions. Thank you for being an SVRI supporter; collaboration is key to our success. Best wishes for a healthy and productive 2015!
CARF Accreditation

SVRI will be seeking a three-year accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) in 2015. SVRI successfully obtained a three-year accreditation in 2012. CARF is an independent, non-profit agency promoting quality, consumer-driven services from the facilities seeking accreditation. According to CARF (2014), “accreditation signals a service provider’s commitment to continually improving services, encouraging feedback, and serving the community” (http://www.carf.org/home/).

For further information about the importance of CARF accreditation and the process of achieving accreditation, visit www.carf.org.

Congratulations to SVRI staff member Jaclyn Wilsey, MS, CRC, PVE, ATP for passing the ATP exam and becoming a certified Assistive Technology Professional!

Statistics of 2013 Services

As part of SVRI’s quality improvement and strategic planning, we collect data about the characteristics of the persons we serve through our programs and adapt our service delivery based on this data.

Records indicate that during 2013, the primary disability groups served in our program areas (Assistive Technology, Benefits Analysis, and Vocational Evaluation) were physical disabilities and cognitive/learning disabilities.

The three most prevalent populations served were: physical injury/disorder, cognitive/learning disabilities, and sensory disabilities.
Interview with UW-Stout Alumni... Where Are They Now?

At SVRI, we have the opportunity to collaborate with many agencies. Sometimes, collaborating with these various agencies comes “full circle,” and we have the opportunity to work with UW-Stout alumni! Becky Albricht and Angie Stearns are both UW-Stout alumni and currently work at Chippewa River Industries (CRI) in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. CRI is a part of the consortium that implements the Individual Placement and Support (IPS) model, which is an evidence-based practice (EBP). CRI is one of the leading IPS teams in the state in regards to successful employment outcomes. Below is an interview with the UW-Stout alumni, Becky and Angie.

- **What program did you go through/degree did you receive from UW-Stout?**

  **Becky:** Early Childhood Education.

  **Angie:** Vocational Rehabilitation.

- **Is there one person, one objective, etc. that stood out to you from Stout that influenced or inspired you and the work that you do now?**

  **Becky:** Every interview I’ve had, when I mention UW-Stout as my university, I’ve consistently heard good things. It’s always the first thing I mention and always well received! I’m proud to be a Stout girl. :-) My husband, myself, my step son, and hopefully my son are all UW-Stout grads. Why stop here? Hopefully my grandchildren will carry on the tradition!

  **Angie:** I have always wanted to help people and UW-Stout helped me with gaining more education with individuals with disabilities.

- **How have your educational and/or professional experiences enhanced our community?**

  **Becky:** I have always represented the schools, agencies, and companies up-on which I’ve built my career. I’ve been the “face of” school districts, early learning centers, continuing education, several non-profits at booths, job fairs, education days, national seminars, Chamber of Commerce events etc...

  **Angie:** I believe I gained tools necessary to present myself in a professional manner with the individuals I serve as well as in the community.

- **Being Stout alumni in both your community and in your profession, where has that taken you, and how do you see that success in your work?**

  **Becky:** My recent success is working in the IPS program; assisting individuals with severe and persistent mental illness obtain competitive employment in the community. I go out into the community and speak with local businesses and establish rapport with them regarding the types of employees they are looking for. At this point, this has been very successful in Chippewa County.

  **Angie:** I initially wanted to be a corrections officer, as I obtained a minor in criminal justice. I find this type of work more rewarding. It is not easy for individuals with disabilities to gain employment in the community without having a support system. When an individual obtains employment, they become different people. They gain a sense of pride and confidence and that is priceless.
On Saturday, October 25, 2014, the Keys to Success Conference was held at the UW-Stout Memorial Student Center (MSC). The Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute (SVRI) had the privilege to be a sponsor for this event, along with Wisconsin Statewide Parent Educator Initiative (WSPEI), WI FACETS Parent Resource Center, Wisconsin Family Ties, Autism Society of Chippewa Valley, Catholic Charities Post Adoption Resource Center, and 21 different school districts throughout Wisconsin. The Keys to Success Conference focused on providing resources and information to parents, caregivers, educators, and service providers of children, ages 3-21, with special needs. There were over 200 attendees (including staff, speakers, vendors, and attendees) at this year’s conference.

The conference began with the Keynote Speaker, Kimberly Erickson-Nichols, who presented on “Calming the Storm—Understanding and Responding to Children’s Behavior.” After the Keynote, individuals chose three breakout sessions to attend; attendees were provided with twelve different breakout sessions to choose from. These other sessions focused on: self-advocacy, non-violent crisis intervention, levels of adult support, sensory strategies, parent-professional communication, how schools and agencies can work together, living safely using protective behavior, understanding families raising a child with mental health needs, and connecting and having fun with children.

SVRI staff members Sara Dekan, Lyndsey Ebling, and Amanda Schlegelmilch presented at breakout sessions at the conference. They were a part of a discussion panel in a session titled “How Schools and Agencies Can Work Together for Student Employment.” Also on this panel were Jason Haugley, a Special Education Teacher at Ellsworth High School, and Brenda Swoboda, the Western Region Coordinator for the Wisconsin Transition Improvement Grant. Lyndsey also co-presented at the “Parents and Kids: Connecting and Having Fun” breakout session.

Attendees provided feedback at the end of the conference. Comments from participants included:

“There was so much good information; we wish it could be longer than one day and have the opportunity to attend more sessions.”

“Great sessions and information.”

“Nice to hear from those with various disabilities and their past experiences.”

“Parents would like to see support and information for those with hidden disabilities in the future.”

Sara Dekan and Lyndsey Ebling represented the services provided at SVRI (booth pictured left), and Mary Brodhagen and Amanda Schlegelmilch represented the PROMISE grant (booth pictured right) at the Keys to Success Conference. All were able to interact with and inform service professionals, families, and students about various services available to them.
SVRI held an Open House on Thursday, October 23, starting at 9:00 AM and ending at 12:00 PM. A total of nine individuals were in attendance and represented SVRI, UW-Stout, and Minnesota DEED. Attendees were able to choose between two professional development sessions that were offered by our staff members, Meghan Donahue and Laura Plummer. Attendees were evenly divided between the two professional development sessions.

One of the sessions offered was, “Literacy Supports: Reading, Writing, Note Taking, and Organization Accommodations,” presented by Meghan. This session provided individuals an overview and demonstrations on Assistive Technology (AT) tools and applications that can help students with reading, writing, note taking, and organization. Case studies were used as examples of how AT can be used in various situations. CRC credits were provided to individuals at this session.

The other session offered, “AT and Ethics… Should You? Could You? Would You?” presented by Laura, explored the “rights,” the “wrongs,” and the “in-betweens” related to AT devices and services, and when AT should be introduced during the rehabilitation process. Ethical guidelines and the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) Code of Ethics were used as a way to help navigate the AT “maze.” CRC ethics credits were provided to individuals at this session.

Following the sessions, staff member Erika Peterson lead a guided tour of both the Vocational Evaluation lab and Assistive Technology labs. Attendees provided great feedback about both the presentations and the guided tour.

Thank you, SVRI staff and participants, for making this year’s second Open House a great success!

Save the Date for our next Open House! It will be held from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Thursday, April 16, 2015.
Across the Lifespan Conference

On November 13 and 14, 2014, the Across the Lifespan Conference (ATLC) was held in Wisconsin Dells, WI. There were 151 attendees, 54 presentations, and 34 exhibitors at the conference. Along with students, consumers, and families, attendees also represented the fields of: Assistive Technology, Education, Case Management, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Pathology, and Rehabilitation Counseling. For additional information, be sure to visit the conference website: www.atacrosslifespan.org.

Below is the ATLC co-chairs with the Keynote Speaker, Alonzo Kelly. Pictured left to right: Scott Ritter, Giorgianne Maziarka, Alonzo Kelly, Lori Garvey, and Jaclyn Wilsey.

Stout Proud! Below is a picture of the UW-Stout staff in attendance at the conference. Pictured left to right: Bob Peters, Jaclyn Wilsey, Laura Plummer, Amanda Slegelmilch, Erika Peterson, Mary Brodhagen, Kara James.

Vendors at the conference included:

- A&J Mobility
- Adaptive Technology Resources, Inc.
- ATAD - UW Milwaukee
- CapTel
- CaptionCall
- Care Wisconsin
- CATIE Center at St. Catherine University
- CESA 2
- Clear Vision Midwest
- ContinuUs
- Disability Rights Wisconsin
- Don Johnston Incorporated
- E. M. VITU, Inc.
- Enablemart
- Enhanced Vision
- Etac/Snug Seat
- eTrac MSS
- Independence First
- La Causa, Inc.
- Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan
- Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Premier Literacy
- PROMISE Wisconsin
- REALiving
- Sensus ApS
- SimplyHome, LLC
- St. Coletta of Wisconsin
- State of WI Office for the Blind
- SVRI/WisTech
- Texthelp Inc.
- TMG/IRIS Consultant Agency
- Tobii ATI
- Transition Improvement Grant
- UW Stout College of Education, Health and Human Sciences
With a new year upon us comes new staff members at SVRI. We would like to welcome three new student workers to our team!

- **Eric Collier** is a sophomore at UW-Stout. He is majoring in Graphic Design. He will be producing several informational video tours of SVRI. Each video will highlight and describe each service area, as well as provide a broad informational overview of SVRI.

- **Austin Topp** is also a sophomore at UW-Stout. He is majoring in Information Technology. He has been selected as the new Computer Assistant at SVRI. His job duties at SVRI include solving computer issues, fixing printers, and taking inventory of our computers, iPads, and printers.

- **Amber Maxwell** is a junior at UW-Stout. She is majoring in Human Development and Family Studies. She has been hired as the PROMISE Office Assistant at SVRI. Amber will work on processing intake paperwork and sending outreach mail for the PROMISE grant, as well as prepare the necessary informational items for various conferences.

Welcome, students, and we look forward to working with each of you!

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**'Tis the Season**

The staff at SVRI celebrated the holiday season with a potluck held on December 18. Staff members participated in the “best holiday sweater” competition (pictured bottom left), as well as a mystery gift exchange (pictured bottom right).

In keeping with the tradition of the giving season, the Wisconsin PROM-ISE team held a food drive at SVRI (pictured left). The team collected donations of nonperishable food items in the Vocational Rehabilitation building. The donations were collected for Stepping Stones of Dunn County through December 30 and delivered on December 31. Thanks to all who contributed!
SVRI Executive Director Receives National Award

Congratulations to Dr. Cayte Anderson on receiving the National Rehabilitation Association’s (NRA) 2014 President’s Award!

The award is presented to one professional annually in recognition of outstanding national leadership and contributions to NRA and the field of rehabilitation counseling.

Professional Development Opportunities

CRC Exam Preparation Workshops
- January 8—March 5, 2015
- May 14—July 9, 2015

Physical Disabilities
- January 8—February 19, 2015

Upcoming Events

Wheelchair Clinics
- January 13, 2015

Call Tom Tozier for additional information at (715) 232-4037.

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