

New Name for the Center

The Higher Education Center Against Violence And Abuse is now known as the Minnesota Center Against Violence And Abuse (MINCAVA).

The new name more accurately describes the scope of all Center projects and the internet address of the MINCAVA Electronic Clearinghouse on the World Wide Web <<http://www.mincava.umn.edu>>. The Center now houses both the MINCAVA Electronic Clearinghouse and a new extension of the Violence Against Women Grants Office of the US Department of Justice. See article titled "Department of Justice Website" for a description of this site.

Violence Education Project

Funds from the Minnesota State Legislature support what is now known as the Violence Education Project (VEP) of the Center. The purpose of the Violence Education Project is the original mission of the Center — to revise the preparation, licensing, and continuing education of a wide range of Minnesota professionals on issues of violence and abuse. The Center re-convened an Advisory Board for the Violence Education Project in October, 1997, comprised of Minnesota practitioners, policy administrators, and higher education faculty and staff. Advisory board members are actively involved with planning and carrying out activities pertaining to the Project. Board and staff members are guided by the report *Responding to Violence and Abuse: Educating Minnesota Professionals for the Future* <<http://www.mincava.umn.edu/taskforce>> and currently work to achieve its recommendations through funding the Interdisciplinary Program Grants for Professional Education About Violence and Abuse, working with Professional Teams of individuals and organizations to make policy and licensing changes and maintaining the MINCAVA Electronic Clearinghouse. Each of these VEP projects is described below.

This fall the Center launched the **Interdisciplinary Program Grants for Professional Education About Violence and Abuse**. In addition to its primary goal of assisting Minnesota professionals in meeting task force recommendations, the grant program has the following three priorities:

- I. To improve *access* to violence-related education for:
 - (1) students in professional degree programs; and/or
 - (2) practicing professionals seeking continuing education;
- II. To promote *interdisciplinary* higher education and training initiatives within post-secondary institutions in Minnesota;

- III. To promote *collaborative* projects between community organizations, licensing boards and higher education institutions, and between MnSCU, the University of Minnesota and private colleges and universities, and;

- IV. To create *sustainable, integrated* violence education programs that will be incorporated into existing systems and promote structural change within Minnesota institutions and communities.

Grant proposals are due Monday, February 16, 1998, and grant activities may be carried out through June 30, 1999. Grant recipients will participate in the Center's second Violence Education Training Institute during Fall, 1998, and share their program materials via the Center's MINCAVA Electronic Clearinghouse. To obtain more information about this program, contact the Center or visit the Clearinghouse at <<http://www.mincava.umn.edu/rfp>>.

Members of the Violence Education Project Advisory Board are beginning to explore how **Professional Teams** for each discipline identified in the task force report can encourage policy and licensing changes related to violence-related professional education. These teams will first identify current activities throughout Minnesota and help to define MINCAVA's role within each discipline. To join a Professional Team or report related activities, contact Cari Michaels at the Center.

The **MINCAVA Electronic Clearinghouse** provides up-to-date resources from around the world for those interested in developing syllabi for higher education courses, locating published articles pertaining to violence, finding funding sources for violence prevention projects, locating individuals or organizations who serve as resources, and participating in other activities related to violence education.

The site now houses a new searchable database with over 700 entries of print, video, and multimedia training materials on violence and abuse issues. Contents include violence prevention curricula for grades K-12, videos, books, and other materials for educators, trainers, survivors, professionals, and others. Topics include dating violence, child sexual assault, sexual harassment, gun violence, domestic violence, and more. The Clearinghouse is now linked to the Center's new research-oriented website, "Understanding the Link Between Child Maltreatment and Woman Battering" (<<http://www.mincava.umn.edu/link>> - see insert titled "MINCAVA Special Research Update").

Department of Justice Website

A U.S. Department of Justice website is now housed at MINCAVA. The Center has entered into a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice's Violence Against Women Grants Office (VAWGO) to develop a "Violence Against Women Resources" website. Even though it is still in its infancy, the site already contains several chapters of a Full Faith & Credit publication from a recent national conference in Albuquerque. These chapters discuss the enforcement of protection orders across state and tribal jurisdictions as required under the Violence Against Women Act. The chapters are now available on-line, as are articles submitted courtesy of the Battered Women's Justice Project and VAWnet - the National Electronic Network on Violence Against Women. You may access these materials by logging into VAWGO's homepage at:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/VAWGO>

and then clicking on the "Resources" button.

Our staff will be advised by over twenty-five criminal justice and advocacy professionals from around the country. This Advisory Board will "meet" electronically on a regular basis and in person once each year to identify key issues the site will address.

Content development continues in collaboration with battered women's advocates and government organizations across the country. Our next major on-line publication project will be the "Promising Practices Manual" currently under development by the Washington DC-based STOP (Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors)-Technical Assistance Project in conjunction with the Department of Justice. The Center's staff will also be contracting with others around the country to develop new materials on violence against women that only will be found online at our cooperative site. U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno has planned to "visit" the site in early February.

Call for Resources

The Center seeks violence-related syllabi, scholarly papers, reports, bibliographies, and other educational and training resources for inclusion within the MINCAVA Electronic Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse serves as a rich source of up-to-date resources for faculty, trainers, and other professionals addressing violence education. To submit resource materials, please contact Karen Zentner Bacig at the Center.

Internship Opportunities

The Center currently is seeking interns. Interns with the Center receive a financial stipend and/or higher education credit and have opportunities to actively participate in a statewide higher education initiative, learn about numerous violence education resources, participate in public speaking and training events, and work on an internationally recognized World Wide Web site. Contact the Center to receive an internship application packet.

National Electronic Network on Violence Against Women

Jeff Edleson and Andrea Bible continue to co-facilitate the Applied Research Forum of VAWnet, the National Electronic Network on Violence Against Women. Until now, VAWnet has been a pilot project linking nineteen state coalitions against domestic violence and six allied national organizations.

On March 8th, International Women's Day, VAWnet will move onto the Web and expand dramatically. By summer it will include all 50 state coalitions and a wider range of national organizations among its members while remaining a private network. This will bring over 500 people onto the network for exchanges about their work. Eventually all 50 state coalitions against sexual assault will also join the network.

The Applied Research Forum, based at MINCAVA, develops brief research summaries and interpretations of current research issues. To date, we have developed 11 on-line documents by authors from across North America and have scheduled more for the coming year. The Applied Research Forum also facilitates on-line discussions of research issues. These discussions will expand with the growing number of participants and greater flexibility offered by the new web-based design. VAWnet is funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and is based in the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, a project of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence in Harrisburg, PA.

How to Contact the Center:

By Mail: Minnesota Center Against Violence And Abuse
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By telephone: (612) 624-0721
or toll free in Minnesota (800) 646-2282

By fax: (612) 625-4288

By e-mail: mincava@umn.edu

MINCAVA staff changes

Karen Zentner Bacig joined MINCAVA in September. Karen is currently an Administrative Fellow with the Violence Education Project (VEP). She is a second-year doctoral student in Educational Policy and Administration at the University of Minnesota with a focus on higher education. Prior to returning to school Karen was the Assistant Dean of Students at the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minnesota. Karen comes to the Center with experience in violence prevention, alcohol and other drug prevention, and student affairs-related issues. Karen manages the Center's MINCAVA web site <<http://www.mincava.umn.edu>>, assists with all Violence Education Project activities, and maintains on-line correspondence with Minnesota faculty and practitioners.

Soma Sen Hawkins also joined MINCAVA in September and works as a Content Specialist for the new VAWGO (Violence Against Women Grants Office) website. She has Master's degrees from Iowa State University in Agricultural Economics and in Community and Regional Planning. She recently worked for Fingerhut's Corporate Research and Analysis Department. Soma has also volunteered for a number of years in several different battered women's shelters in both Iowa and Minnesota. She is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Social Work at the University of Minnesota. With other Center staff, Soma is developing an extension of VAWGO's website that will provide resources on violence against women for law, criminal justice, and social service professionals.

Robert Lebowitz, Ph.D., a computer consultant specializing in projects on behalf of not-for-profit agencies and educational institutions, has worked with MINCAVA since September. In his current role as technical consultant for MINCAVA staff, he is developing Internet-accessible public information resources including databases and dynamic content Web pages. Robert received his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana. His professional interests involve distance learning, multi-media instruction, and database and networking design.

Terri Mazurek began working at MINCAVA in October and is a Master's student in the School of Social Work at the University of Minnesota. She will coordinate the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Research Summaries project. Staff of this project will develop on-line and print summaries and interpretations of the CDC's funded research on violence against women for practitioners and policy-makers. Terri recently finished her BS in Psychology at Michigan State University. She conducted research and wrote a thesis titled: "Determining the Factors that Predict Harm from Pornography: An Evaluation of Women's Experiences With and Attitudes About Pornography."

Rachel Roiblat joined MINCAVA in September and works as a Content Specialist for the VAWGO website (see project description for Soma Sen Hawkins). She received both her BA and MA in Social History from Yale University. A certified Chemical Dependency Specialist, Rachel spent four years on the staff of Pride Institute as a clinical counselor, a researcher, and the Director of Public Education. Rachel also has extensive experience lecturing, conducting trainings, participating in grassroots organizing activities and working with domestic violence and chemical dependency programs in Israel and France. Now in her second year of doctoral studies at the University of Minnesota's School of Social Work, she is continuing to explore the relationship between chemical dependency and domestic abuse.

Pat Wright began her position with MINCAVA in September and is Principal Secretary/Office Manager. She previously worked for eight years with the University of Minnesota's College of Veterinary Medicine - Veterinary Teaching Hospitals. Pat has been involved in the secretarial field since 1967 and assists Center staff with correspondence, scheduling, office coordination, provision of resources, and general office support.

Continuing with the MINCAVA staff are:

Dr. Jeffrey Edleson, Director
Cari Michaels, Associate Director
Andrea Bible, Technical Assistance Specialist
Anna Hagemeister, Research Fellow, Research Projects
Jennifer LaPointe, Graduate Research Assistant, Research Projects
Becki Reitz, Graduate Research Assistant, Research Projects

Featured Programs: Minnesota Approaches to Violence Education

Each Center newsletter features two current Minnesota violence education programs. Center staff use this newsletter as one method of sharing resources among Minnesota educators. To learn more about a featured program, contact the director named in the article; to feature your program in a future newsletter, contact MINCAVA.

Family Violence: An Intervention Model for Dental Professionals

The University of Minnesota's Program Against Sexual Violence is collaborating with the School of Dentistry on a training project titled "Family Violence: An Intervention Model for Dental Professionals." Staff are developing a training curriculum and video to teach dentists and allied personnel to intervene appropriately with victim/survivors of family violence. The six-hour training includes ethical and legal responsibilities, definitions of family violence, impact of abuse on victims, intervention techniques, and methods for creating a safe office environment. The project has been supported by the University's Office for Student Development and Athletics, the School of Dentistry, the Trustees of the Minnesota Dental Association, and the Council on Access, Prevention and Inter-Professional Relations from the American Dental Association. For more information, contact Jamie Tiedemann, Director, Program Against Sexual Violence, at (612) 626-2929. Jamie has been actively involved with MINCAVA since its inception and is currently a Violence Education Project Advisory Board member.

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Minnesota Center

AGAINST VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

Child Abuse Prevention Studies Program

The Child Abuse Prevention Studies (CAPS) Program is a distance education program sponsored by University of Minnesota's University College and the School of Social Work. Courses in this two-level graduate certificate program are designed for post-baccalaureate and graduate students as well as social service providers, early childhood educators, child care workers, child advocates in the fields of law, law enforcement, and mental and community health, and others working with children and families. The CAPS Program was envisioned and designed by a multi-disciplinary group of faculty from early childhood development, child psychology, social work, and public health. For the last three of its five years, the CAPS courses have been available through the University's interactive television system at sites throughout Minnesota. Currently, CAPS has sites in Rochester, Moorhead, Duluth, and the Twin Cities. To obtain more information about the program, contact CAPS Director Ann Ahlquist at (612) 625-2742.

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