

May 2005

Miniwakan Newsletter



Published by Spirit Lake Consulting, Inc.
P.O. Box 663, 314 Circle Dr.
Fort Totten, ND 58335
(701) 351-2175 info@spiritlakeconsulting.com

Answers from last issue:

Why?

Many people have asked the meaning of our name, "Miniwakan News". Miniwakan is from two Dakota words that mean "Spirit Water", or "Spirit Lake", the reservation where we are headquartered.

I've never figured out what you guys actually do. What are these new grants?

We have been making slices of the Internet, which is the best way to explain our most recent projects, in 15 words or less. We bring the Internet to people who do not have access to it and are able to productively use this information. This month we will complete our second small business innovation research project focused on computer-integrated training.

In a nutshell ...

What we did and what we found:

Both small business research projects aimed at increasing knowledge of disabilities, community resources, and interventions. One aimed at training staff while the other was for people with disabilities and their families. Because many remote communities we serve have very small libraries, or no library at all, we created a "Virtual Library" on our website and CD-ROM. This virtual library includes entire books, articles, and pamphlets. Their kind authors have given us permission to reproduce. Because many of our users have limited or slow Internet access, we obtained permission to include many web pages in addition to our own. The Administration on Aging and National Federation of the Blind are two organizations that have been very generous in allowing us to make their information

Results:



Both studies have shown substantial differences between those who attended the training and those who did not. We tested participants in our projects before and after training. At the same time, we tested people from the same communities who did not participate in the training.

Thanks to the suggestions of our consultants, Dr. Russell MacDonald and Derrick Dauphinais, SLC Director of Marketing, all participants were paid for their time, whether in the training or control group.

What is next?



Having developed a working model, we are now in the process of expanding the model to a complete "Virtual Schoolhouse" on CD. When completed, the model will look like this:

Home page – Introduction to computers (optional) – Introduction to disability – Courses on disability, virtual library (further information on disabilities), common area (bulletin boards, field trips, newsletters)

Free Stuff - Can I get a free Disability Access CD?

You betcha. We picked that line up watching the movie, "Fargo".

This is a pilot version. It is a very sealed down example of what our full model will be. There may still be a few bugs in the system and it is not as pretty as our commercial package will be.

However, we think you will find it interesting and useful. Best of all, did we mention you can get it for free?

Just email us your request at DA@spiritlakeconsulting.com or write to us at:

Disability Access
P.O. Box 76
Fort Totten, ND 58335



Client Focus: Spirit Lake Vocational Rehabilitation

We recently completed a site visit for evaluation of the **Spirit Lake Vocational Rehabilitation Project**. This project began in September 1998 and continued funds will help it continue to flourish. This project focuses on the residents from the reservation, providing service for those with disabilities, vocational counseling, on-the-job training, and physical and mental restorative services.

Now on its second five-year grant, the project staff will concentrate on doubling the number of youth served, increasing job opportunities, and contradict the long-time belief that the reservations' disabled residents cannot work on their own. The unemployment rate is still at 60% or higher and something needs to be done about this. SLVRP works to establish part-time job opportunities for those with severe disabilities, as well as finding full-time employment for those with milder disabilities. Two businesses will be established over the five-year grant period in order to properly address the job training needs of our residents. Spirit of the Eagle Gift Shop is now set up in the new vocational rehabilitation building in Fort Totten, providing yet more employment opportunities and a cultural environment.

"The unemployment rate is still at 60% or higher..."



OUR NEWEST ADDITION -- RESOURCES FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Dr. AnnMaria De Mars, SLC vice-president, presented at the Educating Bilingual Students conference in Riverside in May. Her presentation, "Teachers Electronic Library" was not nearly as boring as the title sounds. The participants practiced games for teaching English, reviewed websites for teaching mathematics, in English and Spanish, and everyone left with a free copy of the newest CD in our Spirit Lake Consulting line. As usual, the presentation was guided by Dr. De Mars' four rules of presentations:

- Don't start late.
- Don't just sit there.
- Don't end late
- Give everyone a present.

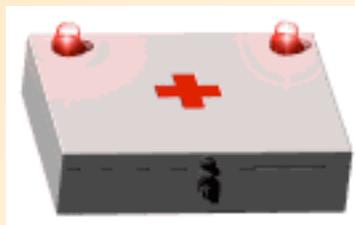
You can find the new resources at our website by clicking on [REALnet – Resources for acquisition of English language](#). For the explanation of Easter eggs, moof and the cow-dog, well, I guess you had to have been there.

Sample Quiz:

When attending our Disability Access trainings, students must take pre and post tests to evaluate their learning progress. Here are some sample questions to test your knowledge and give you some tips to use when caring for loved ones with disabilities.

(Answers on the last page of this newsletter)

1. You should never insult your daughter, who has a disability, by telling her such obvious information as "Ear drops go in the ear". (True/False)
2. You are going to give your bed bound father a bed bath. You enter the room and say, "Good morning". What should you do next?
 - A) Fill a basin with warm water.
 - B) Change the sheets on his bed.
 - C) Ask him to get undressed.
 - D) Explain that you are going to give him a bath.
3. A student is on the floor having a seizure when you walk into the lunch-room. What should you do first?
 - A) Restrain her arms.
 - B) Put a pencil or other object between her teeth.
 - C) Move chairs or tables that could injure her and support her head.
 - D) Tell other students to look away



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Phone:
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Fax: (310) 496-2068

E-Mail:
info@
spiritlakeconsulting.com

*An
Indian -owned
business*

Where to find us?

Our new home ... we have moved into new offices in the new vocational rehabilitation building in Fort Totten. We still have the same phone numbers, mailing address, and fax number. On the web: www.spiritlakeconsulting.com

Staff News

CONGRATULATIONS!

Marketing Director Derrick Dauphinais and Martina Brownshield recently had a healthy baby boy.

SLC President Erich Longie passed his doctoral exams and is nearly at completion of his dissertation.



Answers to sample quiz: 1. False, 2. D, 3. C