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If you have questions or need additional information, you can reach us at 877.485.1973 or info@nifdi.org.

DI Author Bob Dixon Passes Away

The DI family is saddened to receive the news of the passing of Bob Dixon on Wednesday, July 24. Bob was the lead author on the Spelling Mastery series as well as Morphographic Spelling. He came to Eugene, Oregon in the late 1970's and met with Zig Engelmann, pitching him on the notion of creating a spelling system based on morphemes, which is the smallest unit of word meaning. Using this analysis and several simple rules, students could generate tens of thousands of words and understand their meanings. After development of these programs, Bob left Eugene to work at the University of Illinois in Champaign, Illinois in the computing center. He focused on generating computer-based instruction on the PLATO system. In the mid 1990's he moved back to the Northwest and continued work in instructional design. He also was very active in the Association for Direct Instruction, serving as a board member, officer, and first executive director prior to retiring from service in 2011.

Bob was an extremely versatile person. His interests ranged from music, writing, instructional design, computer programming, and much more. Those that knew him (usually) appreciated his quick wit and dry humor. He liked to tell people that he could train anyone to teach Spelling Mastery in one sentence, "First, teach Level A, then B, then C, then D, then E, and finally F." If you aren't smiling now, it probably has to do with the delivery.

NIFDI is sorry for his passing and we extend our deepest condolences to his daughter Emily, as well as all of his friends.

IDEA Public Charter Schools Opens New Site in San Antonio

For some, the start of the school year also means the beginning of a new school. Such is true for IDEA Public Schools - a growing network of charter schools in Texas - who will open a new school this year in San Antonio. The National Institute for Direct Instruction works with the schools located in the Rio Grande Valley, Austin and San Antonio to implement the Full Immersion Direct Instruction model.

The new campus is located on eight acres of land at South Flores Street and West Harding Boulevard. The 59,000 square-foot school will include 32 classrooms, three science labs, a blended-learning lab and soccer fields. IDEA ultimately plans to open 20 schools in the San Antonio area.

Learn more about the new campus at <http://www.ideapublicschools.org/SouthFlores>.

Conference Attendees Enjoy Food and Fun at Annual Get Acquainted Picnic Sponsored by NIFDI

Participants of the National DI Conference enjoyed food and fun at

the Annual Get Acquainted picnic last week. Conference visitors spent Monday evening at Skinner Butte Park under a beautiful summer sun, eating, listening to live music and visiting with friends - old and new! This was the first year that NIFDI sponsored the picnic, which has been an integral part of the conference for decades.

If you weren't able to join us last week, we hope you'll take a few minutes to check out our short video slideshow at <http://www.nifdi.org/news-latest/241-get-acquainted-picnic-2013>. You can also find pictures of the event on our Facebook page at <facebook.com/NIFDI>.

NIFDI Participates in National Charter School Conference in Washington, D.C.

Recently, 4,000 participants from across the US attended the National Charter Schools Conference in Washington, D.C. This event, sponsored by the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, offered sessions for those involved in Governance, Leadership, Operations, Policy and Instruction. Kathy Madigan from NIFDI and Dolores Gonzales from IDEA Schools presented a session *Using Direct Instruction to Improve Student Achievement: The Partnership between IDEA Schools and NIFDI*. Participants learned about the progress students at schools partnering with NIFDI were making and NIFDI's support for the Full Immersion Model for implementing Direct Instruction. Additionally, the session covered the technical aspects of a DI implementation, including management, staff development and supervision issues.

Download the PowerPoint presentation from this session: [IDEANIFDINationalCharterSchoolPresentation.pptx](#).

First Annual Training Institute in Texas Next Week!

Don't forget! If you plan on joining us for the First Annual Training Institute, sessions start in just a few short days! Still need to register? There's still time. Go to <http://www.nifdi.org/training-institute> and register today.

New administrator or an administrator new to DI? Join our Administrator's Academy for training targeted at helping you learn how to successfully implement DI for students at your school. The academy is part of the Annual Training Institute happening in Texas next week. Read more about the academy at <http://www.nifdi.org/training-institute/administrator-academy>.

See you in San Antonio!

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