

Alfred University to dedicate new facility for Powell Institute

10/16/02

A 5,000-square foot addition to the Alfred University Child and Family Services Center on Sayles Street will be formally dedicated at 5 p.m. Friday (Oct. 18) as part of the AU Board of Trustees' fall meeting on campus. The ceremony will be followed by a reception and tours. All are open to the public. The addition, along with the renovated facilities at 6 Sayles St., will finally allow the Lea R. Powell Institute for Children and Families to move all its operations under one roof, said Dr. Ellen Faherty, director of the Institute. The Institute is named in honor of Trustee Emerita Lea Powell, who received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Alfred University in 1995, and whose contributions to the University over the past decade helped to establish the outreach programs for the Division of School Psychology that are now part of the Institute. The three components of the Powell Institute are the Center for Child and Family Services, the Center for Rural School Psychology and the Powell Development Program, explained Faherty. Through the Child and Family Services Center, children and their families from the Southern Tier are provided needed mental health services by students enrolled in the graduate programs in School Psychology at AU. It's mutually beneficial for the University and the region. "The Center provides a training clinic for our advanced School Psychology students, who provide all the services under the supervision of licensed psychologists who are on our faculty," said Faherty. Dr. Jay Cerio, professor of School Psychology, is director of the Child and Family Services Center. Since the program began in 1994, 430 clients and families have been seen at the Center, said Faherty, giving them access to services that otherwise would be difficult to provide in an area such as the Southern Tier which is traditionally been underserved by mental health professionals. A second component is the Center for Rural School Psychology, through which the Division of School Psychology provides in-service training to mental health professionals, teachers, counselors and other school personnel in the Southern Tier. Many of the workshops and training sessions are held on the AU campus during the summer, said Faherty, but some are scheduled throughout the school year. Topics range from teaching parenting skills to school reform initiatives. The final piece is the Powell Development Program, which coordinates the research and funding programs for the Institute. Lea R. Powell is married to Art Powell, an AU alumnus, former chairman of the Board of Trustees and now a Life Trustee. Another gift, this one from Melinda Welter, whose husband, Robert, is an AU alumnus and trustee, establishes the Melinda Welter Library, with books, training and therapy materials for student clinicians and area school psychologists to use at the Powell Institute.##