

Powell Institute receives grant to upgrade training facilities

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The Lea R. Powell Institute for Children and Families at Alfred University has received a grant from the F. T. and Anna C. Manley Memorial Trust to improve the facilities of the Institute's Child and Family Services Center. Ellen Faherty, director of the Institute, said the award will be used to facilitate a major upgrade of the Center's audio-visual supervision system. The Child and Family Services Center (CFSC) is a training facility for Alfred University advanced master's and doctoral level graduate students in the programs of the Division of Counseling and School Psychology. The CFSC graduate students offer individual and family therapy, play therapy, school consultation, and psycho-educational assessment services to area children and families under the supervision of licensed psychologists or mental health counselors who are division faculty members. All counseling/assessment offices are wired with audiovisual equipment designed for real time supervision of students who are assessing or treating clients, Faherty explained. "The Manley Trust award is critical, allowing the first update of these systems since 2001 and bringing the Center's capabilities to the current 'state-of-the-art.' The closely supervised setting allows students to apply a wide range of clinical skills with real children and families who are experiencing real problems. This serves as a unique integrative learning experience that has proven to be invaluable to our students and the surrounding community." In addition to providing a training opportunity for future counselors and psychologists, the CFSC serves as an alternative to families in need of help in today's difficult economic environment. "The Center has been able to provide low-cost, high-quality psychological services because we are a training facility and the grant from the Manley Trust will enable us to maintain our high level of supervised services," Faherty said. The funding in the amount of \$25,000 from the F. T. and Anna C. Manley Memorial Trust will allow the Institute to purchase and install new digital cameras for all treatment rooms at the Child and Family Services Center; recording equipment, supplies, and monitors for the Center's monitoring/observation room; and to provide an interactive computer-based system that will allow the student clinicians and supervisors to communicate unobtrusively while the student clinician is delivering intervention services to children and families. In appreciation for the gift, the monitoring/observation center at the Child and Family Services Center will be named the F. T. and Anna C. Manley Observation Room. The CFSC is located at 6 Sayles St. in Alfred, NY, in a neighborhood adjacent to the university campus in a historic building that was formerly the Pi Alpha Pi Sorority house. The facility is handicapped accessible and offers counseling and psycho-educational assessment to individuals, and children and families. Further information about the services of the Child and Family Services Center at the Lea R. Powell Institute for Children & Families may be obtained by calling the Center at (607) 871-2229.