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ACROSS OUR DESKS TO YOURS

New Leadership for the IPRC— Dr. Ruth Gassman *By JoBeth McCarthy-Jean, MPH*

Bloomington, IN – On September 1, 2005, Dr. Mohammad R. Torabi, chairperson for the Department of Applied Health Science at Indiana University, Bloomington, announced the appointment of Dr. Ruth Gassman as the Indiana Prevention Resource Center's (IPRC) Executive Director.

Dr. Gassman, a former associate scientist in the Department of Sociology, IU Bloomington and Public Health Research Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley, has been a researcher and practitioner in the field since 1985. Her research emphases include alcohol and drug health services research, secondary prevention, evaluation and education of health care professionals. Her accomplishments include successfully acquiring federal research grants through such organizations as the National Institute of Health (NIH) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). She has published her findings in several substance abuse and drug education journals.

Dr. Gassman is excited to provide leadership for the IPRC and anticipates collaborating with community and state government to advance the prevention system. "I look forward to working with staff and prevention professionals to expand research activities that will both inform and be informed by our service functions. A collaborative relationship between research and services will promote further growth and implementation of evidence-based prevention services across the state," said Dr. Gassman.

Speaking on the current substance abuse prevention resources in Indiana, she is impressed with the tremendous and excellent work of prevention professionals and practitioners in our state. Bringing a

public health perspective to the table, Dr. Gassman's current mission is to further broaden and enhance prevention efforts across the state. "I would like to see us build upon our primary prevention efforts that target non-users, typically youth, to include secondary prevention, which targets those who have used drugs or are using them experimentally or socially. The aim of secondary prevention is to reduce substance use and thereby reduce related harm, including prevention of abuse and dependency. A benefit of promoting drug use reduction among adult populations is that it encourages more protective, low-risk family environments for children. A good example of this is Bloomington's success in creating public smoke-free environments," commented Dr. Gassman.

Dr. Gassman is a native of Iowa City, Iowa, but has made Indiana her home. She is pleased to be part of the Indiana prevention team and is eager to help advance the mission of the IPRC. We welcome Dr. Gassman as our new Executive Director.

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*Dr. Ruth Gassman
Executive Director, IPRC*

Upcoming Events

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| Oct. 2–5 | Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse and Violence Prev. |
| Oct. 5 | Inside the Dark Side with Victor DeNoble, Ph.D. |
| Oct. 17–25 | Grantsmanship Training and Program |
| Oct. 24–26 | Fundraising for Small Non-profits |
| Oct. 27–28 | Proposal Writing |

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