

Minnesota
Higher Education
Coordinating Board

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March 15, 1994

The Honorable Peter Rodosovich, Chair
House Education
Higher Education Finance Division
445 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

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Dear Representative Rodosovich:

In the 1993 Omnibus Crime bill (*Minnesota Laws*, Chapter 326 Article 12, Section 15), the Legislature authorized the establishment of a Higher Education Center on Violence and Abuse. As directed in the legislation, this letter reports on progress in implementing this statute.

The Higher Education Coordinating Board was directed to convene an advisory committee to help select a public or private post-secondary institution to receive the contract for the Center. The institution selected will have a statewide role in helping all post-secondary institutions address problems of violence, harassment, and abuse in the community and on campus:

- The Center will work with licensing agencies, higher education programs, and professional organizations to improve education and licensing policies for professions that work with victims and perpetrators of violence.
- Another responsibility will be to assist programs and institutions as they develop professional and general education about violence and abuse (as required *Laws of Minnesota for 1992*, Chapter 571, Article 16) by serving as a clearinghouse and by sponsoring conferences, pilot projects, and research.

The advisory committee, which includes community, higher education, and student members, developed the Request for Proposals for the Center. Proposals from three institutions were reviewed by the committee in February, 1994. Because the proposals did not meet the committee's expectations, we have requested additional information and will schedule an opportunity for the applicants to present their plans for the Center to the advisory committee in person.

The Coordinating Board believes that the Center is most likely to be successful if there is support in the community for the selection. We are therefore taking additional steps to clarify the proposals and will only award a contract when we are confident that the Center will be a productive method of improving professional education programs and campus training. Because the selection has been delayed, the Center has not yet named the professional education task forces called for in the authorizing legislation. This responsibility, however, is the priority for proposal review and the initial work of the Center.

— Representative Peter Rodosovich
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We will update you again when a decision has been made about the Center designation. If you would like copies of the Request for Proposals or the request for additional information or have questions, please contact me.

Very truly yours,



David R. Powers
Executive Director

DRP:kj