Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design

Media alert

Helping students with disabilities use 'hot' new products for tenth year

Event: **MIAD/MPS Collaborative Design Project**
Date: **Wednesday, March 8, 2006**
Time: **9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**
Place: **Riverside University High School, 1615 E. Locust St.**

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Industrial Design students from the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design have developed exciting new products to make life and school a little easier for a group of Riverside University High School students with disabilities and their teachers. Riverside is a Milwaukee Public School.

On March 8, the MIAD college students will present devices designed to help the Riverside students hold a pan on a stove, turn book pages, hold a telephone, punch binder holes, staple, use a paper shredder and fold linens. The final products become the property of the Riverside students.

The MIAD students met with the Riverside students in January to find out how they could help them meet daily challenges. The students paired into teams, with one MIAD student working on design solutions for each individual student.

Now in its tenth year, the two-month, team-based collaboration exemplifies MIAD's commitment to critical inquiry and civic engagement. It sensitizes MIAD students to consider all members of society as future design clients – the young and the old, able-bodied and disabled – within an intensive, iterative process of needs assessment, research, concept and model development, and evaluation.

The project was conceived and is carried out by Sue Loesl, Adaptive Art Therapist, Milwaukee Public Schools, and Pascal Malassigné, FIDSA, Professor of Industrial Design at MIAD.

MIAD is Wisconsin's only college devoted exclusively to the education of artists and designers. Founded in 1974, it enrolls 650 talented students from across the country who are taught by artists and designers recognized regionally and nationally for their professional and educational accomplishments. Its unique academic approach blends curricular and extracurricular experiences, a community service requirement, and liberal studies in 11 majors toward the bachelor of fine arts degree.