Project: Improving the Validity of Assessments for English Language Learners with Disabilities (IVARED) which is housed at the National Center on Educational Outcomes in 207 Pattee Hall, 150 Pillsbury Dr. SE, Minneapolis campus. IVARED is a consortium of five state departments of education and the National Center on Educational Outcomes. The project will address the validity of assessment results for English language learners (ELLs) with disabilities in statewide accountability assessments through a variety of activities designed to improve assessment systems. These activities will include an examination of the characteristics of the students and their assessment performance, development of recommended assessment participation and accommodations decision-making practices via expert panel input and studies of decision-making, and development of principles to guide the assessment of ELLs with disabilities.

Start date: May 2011

Appointment: One Graduate Research Assistant position at 25%, Level 1, $17.08/hour

Primary Duties:
• Assist project staff with using the Delphi consensus-building approach to develop a list of recommended best practices for appropriately including English language learners with disabilities in large-scale content and English proficiency assessments for grades K-12.
• Write project reports collaboratively.
• Write journal articles collaboratively.

Required Qualifications:
• Current graduate student at the University of Minnesota enrolled in a program related to education or public policy.
• Experience working with English language learners or students with disabilities in the U.S. K-12 education system.
• Graduate coursework in qualitative or mixed method research design and data analysis.
• Excellent academic English writing skills.

Desired Qualifications:
• Experience conducting studies with the Delphi methodology
• Minnesota driver’s license for travel to local schools.

Other possible duties:
• As assigned by project management team.

To apply: Please send an e-mail cover letter to Kristi Liu at kline010@umn.edu (612-626-9061) and Laurene Christensen chri1010@umn.edu (612-624-5832). In the “Subject” line of the e-mail indicate you
are applying for GRA position #2. To the e-mail attach a CV, a current transcript, and an academic writing sample.

*The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.*