



NEWS RELEASE

FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20427

Monday, May 21, 2007
For Immediate Release
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FMCS Partners with Creighton University's Werner Institute To Bring Workplace Dispute Resolution Initiative to "Next Level"

WASHINGTON, DC -- The U.S. Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) has selected the Werner Institute for Negotiation and Dispute Resolution at the Creighton University School of Law in Omaha, NE to further refine and advance an FMCS pilot program aimed at developing customized workplace dispute resolution systems.

The FMCS pilot program—known as Dynamic Adaptive Dispute Systems (DyADS)—was launched at the agency in June 2004. The ultimate aim of the program is to foster workplaces across the nation where conflict is handled effectively and both employee morale and productivity are increased.

“Creighton University has developed, in its Werner Institute, an outstanding center for the study and development of conflict resolution with a strong emphasis on organizational dispute resolution systems,” said FMCS Director Arthur F. Rosenfeld.

Under DyADS, FMCS mediators have worked with employer and union representatives at pilot sites around the country in a collaborative effort to facilitate the design of state-of-the-art dispute-resolution processes for individual workplaces. The result is a systematic approach targeted to the needs of the organization that adopts it.

FMCS Director Rosenfeld stated, “It is clear that the program requires a degree of specialization and focus in order to get to the next level. After discussions with the Werner Institute, we are convinced that they have the resources and the commitment to further refine these techniques and build this program.

“The beneficiaries of this partnership will be employees and their representatives as well as management at workplaces throughout the country. This joint project re-affirms this agency’s focus on collaboration and cooperation in finding creative solutions to workplace disputes,” Rosenfeld said. “We look forward to working with the Institute and the Creighton University School of Law to advance the DyADS program.”

The U.S. Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, created in 1947, is an independent U.S. government agency whose mission is to preserve and promote labor-management peace and cooperation. Headquartered in Washington, DC, with 10 district offices and 69 field offices, the agency provides mediation and conflict resolution services to industry, government agencies and communities.