What is it about a decade celebration that draws our attention? Though a year may pass with seemingly little change, it’s impossible to ignore the passing of a decade. The passage of three decades makes a huge difference in the people in our lives, the work we do, and what we have learned. So, as we commemorate three decades of Reading Recovery in North America, I’ve thought about the changes in my own professional life during this time.

Thirty years ago I was a Title I basic skills teacher in an innercity school in Kansas City, MO. Even with a master’s degree in reading, I labored with how to help those children who were struggling most with learning to read. Later I moved into a district-level position, first with the reading department, then with the staff development department, and then into providing support for teachers in the 18 nonmagnet schools in the district. One year I was given the task of monitoring and supporting the implementation of over 20 different supplemental reading programs — and, of course, I had to be trained in all of them!

In 1997, I was offered the chance of a lifetime — to be trained as a Reading Recovery teacher leader. There were 14 teacher leaders in training at UALR that year and only three had been previously trained in Reading Recovery. Together we all made it through and returned to our home districts to begin training teachers. After every training class that I taught, more than one of the teachers in class expressed the same thought I had after my training: “If I’d only known then what I know now.”

In 2002, I retired from the Kansas City School District and joined the staff at the Reading Recovery training center at UALR, first as a teacher leader and then, in 2004, went through training as a trainer. One of the great things about Reading Recovery is that you become part of an international professional learning community that constantly strives to improve. I’ll never forget the excitement of attending my first national Reading Recovery conference — to be in the same room with thousands of educators who all spoke the same language and had the same goals!

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At the heart of Reading Recovery’s 30-year success is its outstanding professional development network.

We hope you will join us as the learning continues at the 2015 National Reading Recovery & K–6 Literacy Conference. The Conference offers outstanding keynote speakers, K–6 literacy sessions, and opportunity for collegial conversations with educators from across North America:

• Three world-renowned leaders in literacy learning—Lucy Calkins, Mary Fried, and Joy Cowley—are keynote speakers. As a part of our 30th Anniversary celebration, Joy
Cowley has written a new children’s book, *What is a Book?* Each Conference registrant will receive a complimentary hardback copy with a commemorative stamp.

- Featured speakers are Nancy Anderson, Kylene Beers and Bob Probst, Janet Bufalino, Linda Dorn, Betsy Kaye, and Jan Richardson
- 115 sessions in Classroom Literacy (K–2, K–6, and 3–6), Literacy Coaching, Leadership, Comprehensive Literacy, Children’s Literature, and Reading Recovery
- Four day-long Preconference Institute sessions for classroom and Reading Recovery educators by Irene Fountas and Gay Su Pinnell; Kylene Beers and Bob Probst; C.C. Bates and Maryann McBride; and Leslie McBane, Cheri Slinger, and Jim Schnug
- School Administrators Institute with multiple sessions on leadership including the opening session with Gay Su Pinnell, Irene Fountas, and Patrick Callaghan on building high-quality programs for literacy achievement
- 30th Anniversary Reception on Sunday, February 8, celebrates Reading Recovery’s remarkable achievements

Whether you are a Reading Recovery educator, a classroom teacher, an administrator, coach, or advocate, you’ll find tremendous learning opportunities at this Conference. I hope to see you February 7-10, in Columbus!