President’s Message

Conference Theme Celebrates Power and Benefits of Collaboration

RRCNA President Salli Forbes

Together is a powerful word, especially for those of us in Reading Recovery. Perhaps no professional development initiative has so completely harnessed collective energy on behalf of beginning readers and writers as has Reading Recovery. For Reading Recovery educators, coming together to view lessons and discuss our practice and theory is a source of continued learning and renewal. We also know how important it is to work with teachers, administrators, and policymakers outside Reading Recovery. Reading Recovery epitomizes the description of a learning community by Andy Hargreaves and Michael Fullan:

… Where improvement is driven by the commitment to improving students’ learning, well-being, and achievement; where the process of improvement is heavily informed by professional learning and inquiry into students’ learning and into effective principles of teaching and learning in general … (2012, p. 128)

Simply put, when we work together, children are the winners!

This year’s National Conference theme, “Creating a Literate Future Together,” celebrates the power and benefits that collaboration brings. The event will draw classroom teachers, intervention specialists, special educators, and administrators and will include 115 sessions, featured speakers, keynote sessions, a School Administrators Institute, and Pre-conference Institutes for deeper study. Sessions are organized into content strands for attendees with specific interests in Reading Recovery, Grades K-2 Classroom Literacy, Grades K-6 Classroom Literacy, Grades 3-6 Classroom Literacy, Literacy Coaching, Children’s Literature, and Implementation, Research and Administration.

We are also excited that all attendees will have the opportunity to hear three strong keynote speakers:

- Peter Johnston, author, literacy researcher, and reading department chair at University at Albany – SUNY
- Patricia Scharella, professor of education and human ecology, Reading Recovery trainer, and Literacy Collaborative trainer at The Ohio State University
- Brian P. Cleary, American humorist, writer, and poet from Cleveland, Ohio

If you’ve attended previous conferences you know the energy, enthusiasm, and passion that this National Conference inspires! I invite you to join the community of educators at the 2013 Reading Recovery & K-6 Classroom Literacy Conference.

The Conference is one of the many benefits provided by the Reading Recovery Council of North America (RRCNA). RRCNA offers many educational products and opportunities to support each of us in our learning community, including this outstanding journal. If you are receiving this issue of the journal, you are already a member of RRCNA and recipient of the many member benefits — the online Book List and interactive copymasters, the MP3 Listening Library which includes many outstanding conference presentations from previous years, and the 20% discounts on RRCNA products including outstanding webcasts by national educational leaders on a wide selection of important educational topics. You can take advantage of these member resources on the new RRCNA website at www.readingrecovery.org.

Membership allows educators to advocate for policies they know will benefit children’s achievement. RRCNA is the only association advocating exclusively for Reading Recovery and early literacy intervention in Washington, DC. Your
membership allows RRCNA to continue to provide this advocacy and the resources to support our learning community and the children we teach. Please help us extend the impact and development of the Reading Recovery learning community by inviting others to join RRCNA and by renewing your own membership.

Perhaps a quote from Charles Darwin, cited in Peter Johnston’s book Opening Minds (2012, p. 93), best captures the importance of all of us working together:

In the long history of humankind (and animal kind, too) those who have learned to collaborate to improvise most effectively have prevailed.

References

RRCNA President Salli Forbes (left) and Advocacy Committee Chair Lindy Harmon (right) joined Executive Director Jady Johnson in Washington, DC, for the Committee for Education Funding annual legislative conference. The October event featured education policymakers and congressional appropriations staff providing their perspectives on efforts to avoid the budget sequestration and move forward with appropriations legislation for FY2013. In addition, the three attended an event at the National Press Club featuring Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. They also met with 10 congressional offices with responsibilities for education policy and funding, sharing information about Reading Recovery implementation in their states and the importance of Title I and Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy funding.

2013 Teacher Leader Institute & Leadership Academy

WHO SHOULD ATTEND
• Reading Recovery teacher leaders, teachers, site coordinators, and trainers
• Superintendents, principals, school and system administrators
• Classroom teachers and Title I educators
• Literacy coaches, reading and curriculum specialists

Individuals and school teams are encouraged to attend. Attendance is required professional development for Reading Recovery teacher leaders.

June 12–15, 2013
Bethesda North Marriott Hotel in Maryland (metro DC)

JOIN US AND YOUR COLLEAGUES
• 27 sessions focused on teaching and learning, advocacy and leadership, and collaboration
• Session for new teacher leaders
• Full-day session for DLL teacher leaders

Visit Conferences on the RRCNA Website for Keynote Announcement and More Information