changes us to look at children with an “unusual lens,” to advocate for struggling readers more than we had ever dreamed, and to know that all our efforts truly make a difference. Thank you, Marie.

Join me at this year’s National Conference

Please join me February 1–4 in Columbus for an enriching professional and personal experience. The 2014 National Reading Recovery & K-6 Classroom Literacy Conference offers exciting speakers, sessions, and collegial conversations to enhance our teaching and our students’ learning. This year’s conference theme is Creating Lifelong Readers. We want to set the bar high — beyond teaching our students to read. Our goal is to make certain that reading becomes central to their daily activities throughout life.

In pursuit of that goal, we’ve assembled a program that includes keynote speakers Mary Anne Doyle, Sharon Taberski, and children’s author Brian Pinkney. The Conference offers 115 stimulating sessions for Reading Recovery professionals, classroom teachers, literacy coaches, intervention specialists, administrators, and other educators. See details online and on pages 78–79 of this journal.

Also be sure to attend the Annual Membership Meeting on Monday, February 3 from 4:30–5:30 pm during the Conference. All members are invited to attend. It's your chance to meet elected representatives and hear progress updates at an informal reception with the opportunity to win great door prizes. Hope to see you there!

Executive Director’s Message

Planning Together Creates Common Strategies, Goals

RRCNA Executive Director Jady Johnson

A key indicator of effective leadership is the commitment to ongoing planning and priority-setting that takes into account changes and opportunities in the field. For a number of years, the RRCNA Board of Directors and the North American Trainers Group have worked together to develop an integrated strategic plan and share responsibility for its implementation. Planning together creates a common language, vision, strategies, and goals to align our efforts.

Over the summer, we completed our strategic plan for work over the next year. I would like to share the plan’s four goals with you and some of the exciting initiatives under development.

Goal 1. Reading Recovery ensures its expansion.

This goal is all about enhancing the visibility of Reading Recovery, securing adequate funds—both for RRCNA and for Reading Recovery implementations all around North America—to do our best work, and building our leadership capacity at every level. We will ramp up our outreach to school decision makers to grow implementations. We will also focus on adding to the existing knowledge about literacy teaching and learning.

Goal 2. Strategic partnerships help make Reading Recovery/DLL/IPLE/Literacy Lessons available to all children who need it.

As with the first goal, the theme of reaching out continues. We will connect with parents, providing them with information and resources to enable them to support their child’s reading. We will expand the training of ESL and special education teachers in Reading Recovery/DLL/IPLE and Literacy Lessons to improve outcomes for special populations. And, we will connect and form working relationships with national organizations, special interest groups, and others beyond the Reading Recovery network.

Goal 3. Technology guidelines are developed for Reading Recovery training.

As we all know, the education world is embracing technology as never before. This goal is about the careful study of the use of technology in training teachers and teaching children. Research on technological innovations will be conducted by university training centers through FY15 to inform the ongoing development of Reading Recovery teaching and training. Following the compilation and reporting of data and out-
comes, recommendations for the use of technology will be developed and disseminated.

**Goal 4. Reading Recovery is broadly recognized as an essential component of an evidence-based, comprehensive literacy design.**

We will create greater recognition that Reading Recovery and the expertise of the Reading Recovery-trained teacher is the cornerstone of an effective comprehensive literacy approach in schools. In too many places, Reading Recovery has been viewed as a separate intervention, with theory and practice segregated from other students and teachers in the school. To change this perception, a team of Reading Recovery’s best writers and thinkers is now writing a new publication that details the key elements of effective comprehensive literacy designs that include Reading Recovery. This guide will be made widely available and will be a tool for Reading Recovery professionals in working with curriculum decision makers and their schools. An additional initiative of this goal is to support our partners—classroom teachers, specialist teachers, and administrators—through professional learning opportunities.

After the challenges put before Reading Recovery during the past decade, it is remarkable that Reading Recovery is still here! Reading Recovery’s solid research base and record of measurable student achievement are a solid foundation for our work. In difficult times, we have planned and worked together, addressing challenges and mobilizing the expertise and commitment of thousands of Reading Recovery-trained teachers, teacher leaders, and university trainers. Much more work is ahead outlined in this new strategic plan, and we are looking forward to continuing to support the stellar work you do. Whether actively working in Reading Recovery, retired, or moved to another career, we need your continued support as an RRCNA member and educational leader.

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**You have the expertise to help children who struggle with reading.**

Now you have the resources to help administrators understand the power of Reading Recovery.

The “I’m a Reflection of You” resources tell the story of Reading Recovery through the eyes and faces of the children we reach, providing information decision makers need. enewletters for administrators • personalized note cards • customizable brochures customizable PowerPoint presentations • downloadable fact sheets and case studies short videos of lesson progress and administrator interviews • and more!

**Members Only Resource Center at www.readingrecovery.org • Decision-Maker Website at www.ReadingRecoveryWorks.org**