

Executive Director's Message

What Now?

RRCNA Executive Director Jady Johnson

The Reading Recovery community has inherited a rich legacy. No other literacy intervention has the strong theory base of Marie Clay and the definitive research base accepted by the What Works Clearinghouse. Our research evidence allowed Reading Recovery to earn the \$45.6 million Investing in Innovation (i3) Scale-Up Grant awarded in 2010 by the U.S. Department of Education. The i3 grant paid for training more than 3,700 new Reading Recovery teachers over the past 5 years.

The i3 initiative funded training for Reading Recovery teachers at a time when teacher expertise is increasingly recognized as the key factor in student success. Additional benefits of this grant are the independent research studies published by the Consortium for Policy Research in Education (CPRE). These studies confirm and expand the knowledge we gained from earlier research. As the grant ends this spring, we can look forward to a third and final CPRE report on what is believed to be the largest educational research study ever conducted.

It's not surprising that as the i3 grant ends, many in the Reading Recovery community are asking, "What now?" There are still huge numbers of students and schools that need Reading Recovery. We still face the challenges of informing administrators and decision makers about Reading Recovery and helping them understand the value a Reading Recovery-trained teacher brings to their school. We still have critics who espouse a "phonics first" approach.

What we need to do now is to keep doing what we know is right. As we carry on, we have even more certainty of the benefits Reading Recovery brings to students, schools, and teachers. We must continue to share the evidence with funders and decision makers.

Funding for training and implementation have always included a mix of federal, state, and local dollars. Although the i3 grant infused funds for training in the past 5 years, for the 25 preceding years school districts found a way to fund training and professional development for the

benefit of their students. As we celebrate Reading Recovery's 30th anniversary, many school districts have sustained their implementation for 10, 15, and 20-plus years. Building that kind of sustained support requires constant outreach and team building.

One initiative being piloted now by the RRCNA Board—Leadership Awareness Programs—shows promise for building support. It is a strong person-to-person initiative to introduce local leaders to Reading Recovery. You can read more about this effort on page 86.

I encourage you to use the resources for outreach in the Members Only Resource Center on the RRCNA website and to call on us if there are additional resources we can create to help you in your efforts. And, if you are like many others who believe that RRCNA's work is crucial in keeping Reading Recovery strong in the U.S. and Canada, please maintain your membership and encourage your colleagues to do the same!



RRCNA Board of Directors Election Results

We are pleased to share results of the recent election for terms beginning July 1, 2015.



**Vice President
Janice Van Dyke**

Trainer
Canadian Institute of
Reading Recovery



**Secretary
Suzanne DeWeese**

Teacher Leader
Emporia State
University, KS



**Teacher Leader
Representative
Maeghan McCormick**

Jackson Independent
School District, MI



**Site Coordinator
Representative
Davis Eidahl**

Ottumwa Community
School District, IA