When he launched My Brother’s Keeper in February 2014, President Obama charged the initiative with “building on what works — when it works, in those critical life-changing moments.”

I think this statement describes what we do with children across this country every day in Reading Recovery. We do what works, when it works and we, as teachers, get to glimpse critical, life-changing moments each and every day with the children we teach. Actually, the child I am teaching had one yesterday and it literally brought tears to my eyes when he looked up at me from his book and said, “I always wanted to read this book but I couldn’t, and now I am doing this!”

As I’m sure you know, Reading Recovery was invited to participate in the MBK What Works Showcase at the White House in October. You can read more about the visit in Executive Director Jady Johnson’s message in this issue. Only four other reading programs and interventions were selected under the goal of “Reading on Grade Level by Third Grade,” and only Reading Recovery was ranked with strong evidence. Our strong evidence is cited on the What Works Clearinghouse website, where we received high marks across the board, and in the Investing in Innovation (i3) final research report.

Highlights of the findings and lessons learned from the final Consortium for Policy Research in Education (CPRE) report are shared in articles written by Robert Schwartz and by Connie Briggs and Barbara Honchell in this issue.

Along with all the professional learning articles you will find in this issue of the journal, I want to remind you of the upcoming 2017 National Conference where we have planned even more professional learning experiences for you. The 4-day conference is January 28–31 in Columbus, Ohio, with over 100 sessions and 150 speakers. Keynote speakers Peter Johnston, Jan Richardson, and Mike Artell promise to deliver both inspirational and motivational messages in addition to practical concurrent sessions focused on literacy learning and teaching.

New this year is a full-day Leadership Institute on Saturday led by Dr. Anthony Muhammed. The remaining sessions focused on leadership and typically held on Monday will instead be embedded within the conference program from Sunday through Tuesday, with a special school administrator’s luncheon still taking place on Monday. Our goal is to meet the needs of school administrators as they learn alongside their teachers.

There are four additional full-day Preconference Institutes on Saturday led by Janice Almasi, Nancy Anderson, Adrianna Klein, and Allison Briceño, and Jan Burkins and Kim Yaris. With topics ranging from comprehension to oral language to independence, there truly is something for everyone. Our featured speakers include Mary Fried, C.C. Bates, and Betsy Kaye for the Reading Recovery strand, and Lucy Caulkins, Sharroky Hollie, and Kylene Beers and Bob Probst for the classroom strand.

These speakers will focus on topics important to all of us in our work with children, from self-monitoring to vocabulary development to cultural responsiveness.

Please join us for a professional learning experience that promises to change the way you think about the children you teach and the lives you touch.