Executive Director’s Message

Thank You for Your Partnership

RRCNA Executive Director Jady Johnson

For 16 years, I’ve had the privilege of leading the Reading Recovery Council. I’ve learned so much and had the honor of representing and advocating for the most effective reading intervention in the world! At the end of August, I am retiring and turning this work over to the next executive director who will have the benefit of working with a strong and talented staff team. They, along with others I’ve worked with during my time with RRCNA, have been not only colleagues, but wonderful friends!

The work has been the most challenging of my career, and has been extraordinarily meaningful. Though our Reading Recovery community crosses state and national boundaries, we are united by a commitment to literacy excellence and a shared knowledge of what works!

Please know that I admire and respect the work you do. You are a unique network of professionals working together to achieve remarkable things! No one knows better than you how important literacy is to students, their families, their futures, and to our collective future. Who hasn’t been amazed to watch the behind-the-glass teaching experience? Who can forget seeing a skillful teacher bring success to a struggling reader? What other reading program has the wealth of data and research that Reading Recovery has?

The field of literacy instruction is crowded and competitive. Controversy, especially in the field of beginning reading, has challenged us to be stronger in what we know and how we communicate it to others. I am proud to have worked with you on successful communications and outreach initiatives through the years. RRCNA has focused on building collaboration with respected literacy experts, organizations, school districts, and universities that share similar values and priorities. We have built bridges with school principals and administrators, federal and state education agencies, and others focused on helping children to read on grade level.

In addition to advocacy and outreach, RRCNA provides members with resources and a forum for professional learning and leadership development. Your Board of Directors and I have worked to be sure that this membership association meets the highest standards in nonprofit governance, management, fundraising, human resources, and operations. Since 2008, RRCNA has earned and maintained accreditation from the Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organizations under the national Standards for Excellence Institute® Ethics and Accountability Code for the Nonprofit Sector.

For all of you who are part of the great work RRCNA supports, I say thank you! Whether you are a teacher, teacher leader, trainer, administrator, publisher, or partner, know that you are valued. You have been generous in all the ways that matter, giving your time, sharing your experiences, and donating to support our important mission. I admire your dedication and commitment to children, teachers, and schools. And I am confident that this shared work will continue as the Board and a new executive lead the Council into the future.

As I retire, I will take with me great memories. More importantly, I will keep with me close friends and colleagues — and hold with me all the kindnesses and support so many of you have extended over the years. I thank you for your trust and your partnership!