I’ve had an incredible welcome to the Reading Recovery® community! As you may know, I joined RRCNA this past August as the new executive director at Jady Johnson’s retirement. I’m thankful for the leadership Jady has shown the organization and look forward to building on her success in this role.

The sincere dedication of our members to help struggling readers improve their literacy skills is impressive. Engaging in thoughtful conversations with key leaders, participating in four different behind-the-glass sessions, and reading as much as I can get my hands on about early childhood literacy has already shown me the level of professionalism and dedication Reading Recovery teachers have to have to make the magic happen with the first graders sitting next to them.

Our community has a lot to celebrate as we enter our 35th year of Reading Recovery in North America. Our intervention continues to be impactful on our students, and we have data as a true evidence-based program to demonstrate it. Our community explores opportunities to enhance our work with different populations, from IPLÉ and DLL, to Literacy Lessons™, to continually improving our daily practice of Reading Recovery with students who need that extra enthusiasm and support. Our leadership structures are filled with strong, passionate, and dedicated professionals who truly believe in the work of the organization and Reading Recovery.

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In the past several weeks, I’ve shared some of my early observations with staff and RRCNA leadership. Together, we hope to build even stronger relationships with you and with the larger early literacy community.

I am excited to learn more about our work, identify ways that I can help strengthen RRCNA, and allow our leaders to do what they do best — advocate and advance skill development for struggling readers across North America.

I look forward to meeting you at my first National Reading Recovery & K-6 Literacy Conference in Columbus in just a few months.