Welcome to another school year — my 25th as an educator! Here we are again, after facing unprecedented challenges in pandemics, politics, and professional challenges, and we’ve resiliently battled through another back-to-school season.

But don’t call it a comeback! The Reading Recovery Community never ceased its tireless commitment to our students.

We’ve all been through a wild ride the past few years. But as the Reading Recovery Community, we all know there is no “off switch” on our shared dedication to our students and school communities. That’s why I’m so honored to represent our profession as RRCNA president for the 2022–23 school year.

As I reflect over the lessons learned from the past few years and look into our future as an organization, I see so much to look forward to! Another year of meaningful one-to-one connections with our students. Another year of meaningful partnerships with our colleagues. And of course, another year of professional learning, as we each strive to strengthen and grow in our practice with the means to do whatever it takes to help our students reach their potential as literacy learners.

LitCon has always been one of my favorite professional development experiences, but this year’s line-up of speakers is truly incredible.

There are many opportunities ahead, and I’m especially eager to reconnect with colleagues from around the globe at LitCon ’23 in Columbus! I am thrilled that we are able to return to an in-person conference this year to connect and share this outstanding literacy learning face to face.

LitCon has always been one of my favorite professional development experiences, but this year’s line-up of speakers is truly incredible. From Rachael Gabriel’s insightful take on educational policies to Peter Afflerbach’s wisdom about teaching readers (not reading), LitCon will host dozens of literacy luminaries and shine a spotlight on best practices and timely trends in education.

I’m especially excited about opening keynote Patrick Harris II on Saturday, January 28 at 6:00 p.m.

If you haven’t yet heard of Patrick, you soon will, because he truly is the “next big thing” in the education world!

As the author of The First Five: A Love Letter to Teachers and a dynamic storyteller, Patrick speaks to the heart of every educator — especially those of us in the Reading Recovery Community. His messages of building on student strengths to help them reach their potential is one you likely recognize from your Reading Recovery training, as is his take on the power of reflection as a critical practice of effective educators: “Making meaning of our past to make change for the future.” Patrick’s passion for teachers as human beings first is a unique and timely perspective that captures the magic of being a Reading Recovery professional and will be a wonderful way to kick off LitCon ’23!

I’m beyond excited to welcome RRCNA members and other literacy educators to Columbus, January 28–31, 2023. I encourage you to get your teams together and prepare for a shared learning experience like none other!
Double your donation to the Foundation for Struggling Readers during its Annual Appeal

My favorite English teacher, Ms. Patty Maghee, had an enormous vocabulary and a knack for wordplay that always kept us laughing. She could pun with the best of them! She had a particular penchant for words with multiple meanings. Here’s one she would have loved:

Foundation [foun-dey-shuhn] noun
1. The natural or prepared ground or base on which some structure rests
2. The basis of anything, i.e. The foundation of society
3. The act of founding, setting up, or establishing
4. An institution financed by a donation or legacy to aid research, education, or a cause

Whether a literal or intangible definition resonates most, for a word with such a variety of definitions, there’s no denying the importance of foundations in our lives.

When I think of all the amazing teachers in my past, Ms. Maghee most of all, what I remember most is their generosity. Generous with their energy, spirit, kindness, knowledge, and, yes, their funds. When it comes to the Reading Recovery® Community, we are also generous in giving back to our profession through donations to the Foundation for Struggling Readers.

For the first time in many years, the Reading Recovery Community will hold an Annual Appeal to raise funds for the Foundation for Struggling Readers. The Foundation aims to be a base of support as we build educators and the students in their care toward a bigger, brighter future. The Foundation offers a strong launching point from which to build literacy experts who ignite children’s love of reading.

We’re building a community of literacy experts one by one! Last year the Foundation funded dozens of educators through professional development awards and financed the training of three new teacher leaders. We also invested significantly in research and advocacy, tracking state-level legislation to help Reading Recovery professionals stay informed and respond to detractors who would rob schools of essential one-to-one intervention.

Perhaps you received a financial award or a scholarship in your past, and it’s time to pay that forward. Maybe you want to give in memory of someone who shaped your life and career. Or perhaps you want to leave your own legacy to keep Reading Recovery available for the children who need it most. Whatever your reason, the time to give is now during the annual appeal. Our goal is to raise $50,000, and now through the end of the calendar year, all funds will be doubled through a matching bequest from Dr. Billie Askew, so your gift is twice as generous!

And as the name implies, the Foundation for Struggling Readers ultimately supports the little learners most in need by building the expertise of the educators who serve them.

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Executive Director’s Message

Double Down On Our Mission

RRCNA Executive Director Billy Molasso
Support the little learners most in need by building the expertise of the educators who serve them.

THE FOUNDATION SUPPORTS

✓ Generating positive engagement in national dialogue through our PR partnership with Kivvit
✓ Advocating at both the state and federal level around literacy learning legislation, funding, and administrative regulations
✓ Funding professional development experiences, including three Teacher Leader Training Awards and dozens of LitCon PD awards
✓ Expanding the integration of Improvement Science initiatives, establishing Carnegie Improvement Science as a central strategy to improve early literacy intervention, specifically, Reading Recovery
✓ Developing pro-school, pro-teacher, and pro-student resources and strategies to reach struggling readers
✓ Engaging with Advocates for Literacy, a coalition of professional associations with a focus on literacy efforts
✓ Partnering for school and district improvement initiatives through the Council of Chief State School Officers Collaboratives

WE CAN’T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

- Make a one-time or recurring donation
- Contribute in honor of a loved one
- Direct a required minimum disbursement toward the Foundation
- Remember the Foundation in your estate planning

Scan to donate
Generous Donations Help Fund Nine Teacher Leader Training Awards

Nine teacher leaders are in training thanks to generous donations from Pioneer Valley Books and MaryRuth Books, as well as contributions from the Linda Dorn Reading Recovery Legacy Fund. These awards are funded to school districts that have demonstrated a commitment to Reading Recovery and have selected a qualified teacher leader candidate. Congratulations to the 2022–23 Teacher Leader Training Award recipients.

April Hamilton
Lexington County School District One
Lexington, SC

Anna Hancock
Chesterfield County School District
Chesterfield, SC

Erica Kenoyer
Papillion La Vista Community Schools
Papillion, NE

Sarah Mayer
Plainfield School District 202
Plainfiled, IL

E. Louise Raigoza
Muskogee Public Schools
Muskogee, OK

Leslie Ray
Davis County Community School District
Bloomfield, IA

Lora Reavis
Muskogee Public Schools
Muskogee, OK

Julie Schwartzbauer
Oshkosh Area School District
Oshkosh, WI

Courtney Smith
Spartanburg School District Three
Spartanburg, SC
Do you have a story to share from a lesson? Did a recent professional development session spark an idea? The Reading Recovery® Community is currently accepting blog proposals. From your favorite roaming tip to sharing why you became involved in the Reading Recovery Community, your fellow RRCNA members want to hear from you!

Writing a blog is easy. To begin, please fill out the short blog topic submission form. If selected, RRCNA will reach out to you to find a submission timeline that works for your schedule. Blogs should be short, snappy, and fun; the recommended length is between 300–500 words. Once submitted, RRCNA will edit, post, and share the blog on your behalf — all you need to do is write! Best of all, blog writers earn $100 upon publication!

Submit a blog topic at this link today:
https://rb.gy/7jdqwf