

President's Message

Many Opportunities Ahead for Student and Professional Growth



RRCNA President Maeghan McCormick

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!