



Reading Recovery® Council
of North America

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Dr. Jim Christensen to Receive Teacher Leader Award

WASHINGTON, DC – The Reading Recovery Council of North America (RRCNA) will present educator Dr. Jim Christensen with its Teacher Leader Award for his leadership and work on behalf of first graders in Colorado and Wyoming who have difficulty learning to read. Dr. Christensen is one of four recipients in North America this year. The award will be presented at the 2007 Teacher Leader Institute and North American Leadership Academy in Vienna, VA on Monday, June 4, 2007.

“Dr. Christensen has been an inspiration and tremendous advocate for Reading Recovery in the Douglas County School District, the state of Colorado and also Wyoming,” say his nominators, Douglas County Director of Literacy Cheryl DeLong and teacher leader Kathy Tirrill. “He does everything based on the needs of children, and he especially understands that a child must be a strong and proficient reader to be successful.”

In 2004, Dr. Christensen initiated and financially supported the implementation of Reading Recovery in the Douglas County School District, Colorado. Originally there were nine Reading Recovery teachers in the schools; today the district has approximately 35 trained Reading Recovery teachers.

He is known for creating alliances with other superintendents which allow the Douglas County School District to partner with nearby Reading Recovery districts for training. In 2006, he supported the district’s Reading Recovery teachers as they sought grant money to train a teacher leader and to become a Reading Recovery teacher training site. Then when the grant was obtained, he arranged for the payment of teacher salaries out of the district’s general fund, which allowed the grant money to be used exclusively for professional development and materials.

Recently, Douglas County passed a budget override which will allow more Reading Recovery teachers to be hired and expand the support to more first grade children. Because of Dr.

Christensen's dedication in attending more than 80 community and civic meetings to explain the Reading Recovery philosophy and instruction, the district has received \$1 million to expand the number of Reading Recovery teachers in Douglas County.

Dr. Christensen has worked closely with Colorado's state legislators and with the state's Commissioner of Education, William J. Moloney, and has advocated for Reading Recovery and other effective literacy programs.

The North American headquarters for Reading Recovery is located in Worthington, OH. The Reading Recovery Council of North America (RRCNA) is an association of nearly 8,000 Reading Recovery professionals and partners that includes classroom teachers, Title I teachers, school administrators, university professors, parents and community members. The Council's mission is to ensure access to Reading Recovery for every child who needs its support.

For more information on the 2007 Teacher Leader Institute and North American Leadership Academy, call 614-310-7323 (READ) or go to www.readingrecovery.org.