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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Award Winning Authors and Literacy Experts Will Draw  
3000 Educators to Columbus  
K-6 Literacy Conference – February 7-10, 2009**

COLUMBUS – One of the nation’s premiere learning opportunities for literacy teachers and administrators will occur in Columbus, February 7-10, at the [National Reading Recovery & K-6 Classroom Literacy Conference](#) to be held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center and the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The conference is expected to draw nearly 3,000 teachers, administrators, literacy coaches, and university faculty who will hear featured speakers and select from 140 concurrent sessions on classroom literacy, coaching, children’s literature, administration, and Reading Recovery. Many sessions will have a focus on how to successfully work with struggling readers.

Award-winning authors, illustrators, and literacy experts will conduct small- and large-group sessions for literacy educators from across the U.S. and Canada.

1. [Pam Muñoz Ryan](#), award-winning author of over 30 books for children, including *Esperanza Rising*, is featured with two presentations: “Beginnings, Belongings, and My Journey to Books” (Tuesday February 10, at 9 a.m.) and “Belated Dreams, Discoveries, and Daring Women: The Research Behind the Books of Pam Muñoz Ryan” (Monday, February 9, at 1 p.m.)
2. [James Ransome](#), illustrator and author, and [Lesla-Cline-Ransome](#), author, will reveal how they create stories and illustrations for their award-winning, multicultural books. They are joined for an all-day session by Ohio State University education faculty, Patricia Scharer and Barbara Kiefer, as well as Clemson University faculty, Jonda McNair. (Saturday, February 7, 9 to 3:30. Book signing in the exhibit hall from 3:30 to 4:00 after the session.)
3. [P. David Pearson](#), respected literacy scholar, author, and dean of the Graduate School of Education at the University of California-Berkeley will discuss political and policy changes in recent years and how Reading Recovery has influenced thinking about research and teaching. (Sunday, February 8, 10:30 to noon).

4. **Billie J. Askew**, a Reading Recovery trainer from Texas Woman's University in Denton, TX, will address the joint responsibilities of teachers, administrators, and families in helping children become strong readers and writers.

### **One-to-one instruction is essential for some children**

With continuing concern about literacy success for all students, one key area of focus for the conference is how to prevent reading failure through Reading Recovery, an early intervention for first graders having extreme difficulty learning to read and write. The U.S. Department of Education's What Works Clearinghouse found Reading Recovery to be the only program to have positive effects across four domains—alphabeticity, fluency, comprehension, and general reading achievement. In Reading Recovery, students work one-to-one with a highly trained Reading Recovery teacher in 30-minute daily lessons. After a full series of lessons lasting 12 to 20 weeks, 75 percent of the students reach grade-level expectations. Since Reading Recovery came to the United States in 1984, the early intervention has served nearly 2 million children.

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 7,000 Reading Recovery professionals and partners including classroom teachers, Title I teachers, school administrators, university professors, parents, and community members. For more information on the National Reading Recovery & K-6 Classroom Literacy Conference, call 614-310-7323 (READ) or go to [www.readingrecovery.org](http://www.readingrecovery.org).