



Reading Recovery® Council
of North America

400 W. Wilson Bridge Road, Suite 250
Worthington, OH 43085

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Saralee Etter, communications manager
614-310-7328
setter@readingrecovery.org

Rep. Obey to Receive Teacher Leader Award

The Reading Recovery Council of North America (RRCNA) will present Congressman David R. Obey (D-WI) with its Teacher Leader Award for his leadership and work on behalf of first graders in Wisconsin who have difficulty learning to read. Rep. Obey 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.

“Representative Obey has always made education a top priority during his many terms in Congress,” say District 7 teacher leaders Marggie Pempek and Jackie Heinz. “To him, ‘Education opens the door to opportunity,’ and in the ever-more competitive world, ‘Access to education ought to be based on how much you are willing to learn and how hard you are willing to work not on how many dollars your family has in their bank account.’”

Rep. Obey was instrumental in securing the funding for the initial implementation of Reading Recovery in eight school districts in north central Wisconsin, including schools in Wausau, Tomahawk, and Merrill. He also championed *Wausau Reads*, a \$1.4 million grant that established the North Central Wisconsin Reading Recovery Consortium in 1999 and provided funding for the training of a Teacher Leader. Eight years later, thirty-seven Reading Recovery teachers in six school districts serve approximately 320 children in the consortium schools annually.

Furthermore, Rep. Obey’s support of education at the federal level has enabled the Wausau School District, despite significant budget reductions during the past five years, to continue to fund Reading Recovery through Elementary and Secondary Education Act and other federal funds he has championed. Reading Recovery has served over 700 children in the Wausau school district alone, with 82% of the children reading at or above grade level after the full series of lessons.

He is a vigorous champion of public education, and an advocate for all children and their future. He is currently working to provide additional funds for education in the FY08 appropriations bill.

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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.