



Reading Recovery® Council  
of North America

JANUARY 12, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Rhode Island Educator, Robert Bushell, to Receive National Recognition  
for Helping First Graders Learn to Read**

Mr. Robert Bushell, Director of Elementary Education for the Warwick Public Schools in Rhode Island, will receive national recognition for his leadership in keeping Reading Recovery available for Rhode Island first-graders who have extreme difficulty with early literacy learning. The Reading Recovery Teacher Leader Award will be presented to Mr. Bushell on February 6<sup>th</sup> during the Teacher Leader Institute held in Columbus, Ohio. The Institute is attended by Reading Recovery literacy leaders from across the nation.

Reading Recovery is a highly-effective short-term program of one-to-one tutoring for first graders who struggle with early reading and writing. Individual students receive a 30-minute lesson each school day with a specially trained Reading Recovery teacher. After a full set of lessons, 75% of these formerly lowest students reach grade level standard in just 12 to 20 weeks. Reading Recovery's effectiveness is verified by research reviewed by USDE's Institute of Education Sciences What Works Clearinghouse.

Mr. Bushell has supported and promoted Reading Recovery for more than 20 years and has sought funding and resources so that elementary schools in the Warwick Public Schools have trained Reading Recovery teachers. He has also worked with the Rhode Island Reading Recovery Consortium to advocate for funding to serve children across the state who need the expert teaching that trained Reading Recovery teachers provide. As state level funding for Reading Recovery was discontinued last year due to the greatest financial crisis since the 1930s, Mr. Bushell's leadership resulted in the construction of a Reading Recovery training room in the Warwick Public Schools and the collaborative services of a trained Reading Recovery teacher leader. This action allowed other Rhode Island school districts to continue offering Reading Recovery professional development and lessons to struggling readers.

In supporting Mr. Bushell for this award, Superintendent Peter Horoschak recognized the work of Mr. Bushell and Mrs. Kathleen Derosiers, Supervisor of English Language Arts Instruction in Warwick Public Schools. "Due to their leadership and efforts the concept of Reading Recovery as a major intervention strategy is being dispersed to professional educators throughout our state."

Mr. Bushell is one of two awardees who will receive a Teacher Leader Award at the Teacher Leader Institute. Also receiving the award is Dr. James Littlefield of Spartanburg, South Carolina. Each year, Reading Recovery teacher leaders nominate and recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to Reading Recovery beyond their local community.