



Reading Recovery® Council
of North America

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Tashia Morgridge to Receive Teacher Leader Award

VIENNA, VA – The Reading Recovery Council of North America (RRCNA) will present educator and philanthropist Tashia Morgridge with its Teacher Leader Award for her leadership and work on behalf of first graders in Wisconsin, California, and Massachusetts who have difficulty learning to read. Ms. Morgridge 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.

“Ms. Morgridge’s contribution to Reading Recovery is unparalleled certainly in Wisconsin if not the nation,” says Scott Himelstein, Acting Secretary of Education for the State of California. “Her gift will make Reading Recovery available to students for generations to come.”

Through the generous contribution that John and Tashia Morgridge made to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Wisconsin now has a Reading Recovery Research and Training Center at a university level. This has made it possible to provide Reading Recovery training and continuing contact for all teachers and teacher leaders.

Ms. Morgridge has also given the Ravenswood City School District in Palo Alto, California consistent and strategic support by paying for the salaries, training and materials of the entire Reading Recovery staff. The Ravenswood City School District has twelve fulltime Reading Recovery teachers. The state tests results show that students in grade 2 have more than doubled in their STAR, English Language Arts results at all sites from 2004 to 2006. One site went from having 5% of their second graders at a proficient level in 2004 to 40% at a proficient level in 2006. This phenomenal increase in students reading and writing ability is directly related to the early Reading Recovery intervention that the second grade students received as first graders.

Ms. Morgridge visits each Reading Recovery teacher at Ravenswood several times a year to observe them, and because her knowledge is extensive, she is able to communicate with them about their students’ progress. She celebrates their students’ successes with them.

In addition, Ms. Morgridge, as an alumna of the School of Education of Lesley University, supported high-quality teacher professional development by providing for the installation of two one-way mirrors and furniture for two observation and tutoring rooms needed by the university's Center for Reading Recovery and Literacy Collaborative. Her assistance helped launch the Center, which is the teacher leader training site for most of New England as well as sites in upstate New York.

Ms. Morgridge's impact extends to the national level, where her assistance amplified RRCNA's impact in Washington, D.C. Her commitment to advocacy allowed Reading Recovery to have a full-time presence on Capitol Hill, to collaborate with the largest and most-influential educational associations in the U.S. and to inform key members of Congress about Reading Recovery.

Ms. Morgridge and her family are dedicated in their support of Reading Recovery. Thanks to scholarships funded by TOSA, the Morgridge family's private charitable foundation, school districts in seven states have been able to train eleven Reading Recovery teacher leaders since 2001.

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.