



Reading Recovery® Council
of North America

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**South Carolina Educator, James Littlefield, to Receive National Recognition
for Helping First Graders Learn to Read**

Dr. James A. (Jimmy) Littlefield, retired superintendent of the Spartanburg County District One Schools in South Carolina, will receive national recognition for his leadership in making Reading Recovery available for first-graders who have extreme difficulty with early literacy learning. The Reading Recovery Teacher Leader Award will be presented to Dr. Littlefield on February 6th 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 What Works Clearinghouse.

Since Reading Recovery began in the District One Spartanburg County Schools in 1992, Dr. Littlefield's support has made it possible to train two Reading Recovery teacher leaders and 39 Reading Recovery teachers. Of those original 39, nine are now in the classroom, 12 are special education teachers, and three are ESOL teachers.

Reading Recovery professional development creates teachers with deep understanding of literacy teaching and learning. This expertise allows students to accelerate their learning. Despite difficult economic times, Dr. Littlefield has continued support for Reading Recovery calling it "not an expenditure, but an investment."

Superintendent, Dr. Thomas White, Jr. of Spartanburg County School District 7 said, "During his tenure as superintendent, Dr. Littlefield led Spartanburg District One to amazing levels of student achievement, numerous district awards, and countless school awards. Because of his vision, District One fully embraced Reading Recovery and has reaped the benefits in student achievement."

Superintendent-Elect of Spartanburg District 7, Dr. Russell Booker said, "Dr. Littlefield has been a state leader when it comes to ensuring that every child has the resources needed to read effectively. Dr. Littlefield's strength lies in his unwavering belief that literacy is the foundation we must build upon with our diverse student populations. It is the equalizing factor."

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