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## Successful Reading Program Marking 10th Year in Maine

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# COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

## *Selected News Releases*

### **Successful Reading Program Marking 10<sup>th</sup> Year in Maine**

ORONO, Maine -- The Reading Recovery literacy program will mark its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Maine at a special conference Dec. 6-7 at the Samoset Resort and throughout the new year. The conference will feature some of the top educators nationally and in Maine presenting keynote addresses and workshops on major issues and developments in early literacy. In addition, a Greenville sixth grader will share a letter she wrote to her local school board about how the program has helped her succeed in school.

Reading Recovery is an early intervention program for first graders who are at-risk of failing to learn to read. The aim of the intensive, one-on-one strategic instruction is to accelerate the literacy growth of children with difficulties so that they catch up with their peers and learn with regular classroom instruction. It operates as a second chance for young learners and is designed to reach struggling readers before they begin a cycle of school failure.

Reading Recovery was developed in New Zealand and introduced to the United States in 1984 by The Ohio State University. Realizing the need for Reading Recovery in Maine, the state Department of Education and the University of Maine College of Education and Human Development provided leadership to develop and implement the program.

In 1990, the state department organized a group of 26 Maine teachers to go to Ohio to see the program in action, and Dean Robert Cobb took the initiative for UMaine to become an approved Reading Recovery Teacher Leader Training Center. The College sponsored the yearlong training in New Zealand of early literacy specialist Paula Moore as a Trainer of Reading Recovery teacher leaders. Teacher leaders serve as adjunct faculty to train teachers in the specialized techniques, as well as classroom teachers and special educators across the state. Annual state funding allocations for Reading Recovery began in 1993.

UMaine is one of 24 universities in the United States approved to oversee the training of teachers and delivery of Reading Recovery. Moore, assistant professor and director of the UMaine Center for Early Literacy, coordinates the Reading Recovery training program in Maine, which has grown every year since its inception. Professor Rosemary Bamford is site coordinator of the UMaine training center. The state now has 478 certified Reading Recovery teachers and 21 highly trained teacher leaders. Currently, 211 schools in Maine, across 98 School Administrative Districts, participate in Reading Recovery. Since 1991-92, the program has served a total of 13,533 Maine children.

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