



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Reading Program at ESU Ranked Number One by USDE

A reading program connected to Emporia State University was named by the US Department of Education as the best program assisting young students who are struggling with learning to read and write.

Dr. Suzanne DeWeese, a Reading Recovery teacher leader at ESU, received word on December 2 that Reading Recovery was ranked number one in general reading achievement by the USDE's What Works Clearinghouse.

This is the second consecutive year Reading Recovery has been recognized as a "central and trusted source of scientific evidence for what works in education," according to the USDE WWC.

"The updated information in this latest report includes information on the collaboration between universities and school districts in providing training and professional development for teachers," DeWeese said.

In 1998, ESU became a University's Reading Recovery University Training Center. Reading Recovery is used in 58 Kansas school districts, including area school districts: Southern Lyon County, Lebo-Waverly, and Marais des Cygnes Valley.

Reading Recovery is a popular early literacy intervention for struggling first grade readers, was a target of criticism in recent years from the Bush administration. Beginning in 2007, the USDE's inspector general found since implementation of the No Child Left Behind legislation's Reading First program, educational advisors and federal reading officials sought to keep states from using money from the federal officials to pay for Reading Recovery despite its effectiveness and scientific research base.

Imported to the United States from New Zealand in 1984, Reading Recovery is an intensive, one-to-one tutoring program that targets the lowest-achieving first graders. It is used by more than 100,000 students a year in 7,500 schools across the country, according to the council.

The report can be found at ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/reports/beginning_reading/reading_recovery/.

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Reading Recovery in Kansas

- During the 2007-08 school year, 123 teachers worked with 944 children in 86 schools across 58 districts.
- In 2007-08, 77% of students in Reading Recovery who completed their series of lessons reached grade level proficiency in reading and writing.
- Among 512 children who completed their series of lessons successfully, only 2% were referred and placed in special education for reading difficulties.

Excerpts from "**Study of Reading Program Finds a Lack of Progress**"
By Maria Gold, Washington Post, November 19, 2008

A study released by the US Department of Education on November 18, 2008 found students in schools using Reading First – a program central to the No Child Left Behind legislation – scored no better on comprehension test than students in similar schools which did not use the \$6 billion Reading First program.

