FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ESU to receive federal support for Reading Recovery Program

Emporia State University will share a $46 million federal grant with several other institutions to expand its Reading Recovery program.

The money is from a federal investing in innovation (i3) grant awarded last fall to the program’s lead partner, Ohio State University, and 20 other partnering institutions including ESU.

Reading Recovery offers one-on-one reading instruction to first-graders identified as struggling with reading. The program is an early intervention program developed by New Zealand educator and researcher Dr. Marie M. Clay.

ESU received more than $85,000 for the 2011-12 year. Over the next three years, an additional $350,000 will be distributed to ESU. The balance of the grant will be shared with the other partners.

Dr. Annie Opat, Director of ESU’s Reading Recovery Training Center, said the new funds will help the program to continue to train teacher leaders in the program method.

“For a year, teachers are enrolled at ESU to learn the Reading Recovery training model,” Opat said. “They then take that education back to their school districts and work with children and often become literacy leaders.”

Individual teachers can also enroll at ESU and take seven credits.

“We are training 16 teachers during the 2011-2012 year and every year after that we hope to train 20 more,” Opat said.

Kansas school districts involved in training i3 supported Reading Recovery teachers include Burlington, Hays, Kansas City Stony Point South, Kaw Valley, North Lyon County, Otis-Bison, Palco, Plainville, Riverton, Scott City, and South Lyon County.

Next month the Kansas Regional Reading Recovery University Training Center will host the 14th Annual Kansas Reading Recovery® and Early Literacy Conference. Due to the renovations to the Memorial Union, the conference will be held at the Emporia Arts Council in downtown Emporia on March 5, 2012.

To register for the conference or learn more about Reading Recovery at ESU, go to www.emporia.edu/readingrecovery/.

###TEACH###