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AUGUST 26, 2019 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Teacher Receives Scholarship to Aid Struggling Readers

FARMINGTON — RSU 9, Mt. Blue Regional School District teacher Jennifer Ladd is attending University of Maine Orono, for a full-time year of study focusing on how best to help first graders who are struggling with beginning reading and writing. The study is part of a training program that will qualify Jennifer to be a Reading Recovery teacher leader. The scholarship was generously funded by MaryRuth Books.

Teacher Leader Training Scholarships are awarded to school districts that have demonstrated a commitment to Reading Recovery and selected a suitable teacher leader candidate. The scholarships provide support for the initial training of teacher leaders, which consists of full-time study at Reading Recovery training centers in the U.S. and Canada. Teacher leaders train and coach Reading Recovery teachers in their districts and teach children having extreme difficulty learning to read and write.

Mia Coulton, president and founder of MaryRuth Books said, "We at MaryRuth Books recognize the enormous contributions of teachers like Jennifer Ladd, and the dedication and commitment their vocation requires. We are happy to be able to support them."

Three \$15,000 scholarships were awarded to train teacher leaders during the 2019-20 training year. Funds were generously provided by MaryRuth Books, Pioneer Valley Books, and Hameray Publishing Group/Yuen Family Foundation. The awards are administered by the Reading Recovery Council of North America (RRCNA).

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Jennifer brings 24 years of teaching experience to her training and has a master's degree in educational leadership from University of Maine Farmington. She looks forward to leading the journey of the district becoming a site for Reading Recovery that supports all teachers working with struggling literacy learners. All of the elementary schools in the Mt. Blue Regional School district are Title I schools.

Also receiving scholarships this year are Meg Dyck, Douglas County School District, Castle Rock, CO, training at Texas Woman's University; and Jill Scott, Anderson County Schools, Clinton, TN, training at Georgia State University. An additional award of \$5,000, donated by Pioneer Valley Books, was granted to Sharee Barrus, Washakie County School District, Worland, WY, training at Saint Mary's College of California.

About the Reading Recovery Council of North America

The Reading Recovery Council of North America (RRCNA) is a not-for-profit association of Reading Recovery professionals and partners. The Council provides a network of professional development opportunities and is an advocate for Reading Recovery in the United States and Canada.

About Reading Recovery

More than 2.4 million struggling first-grade readers and writers in North America have benefitted from the one-to-one teaching expertise of Reading Recovery professionals. The intervention, introduced to North America in 1984 by educators at The Ohio State University, has more research proving its effectiveness than any other beginning reading program.

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