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The 2009 Literacy Summit Recognition Luncheon

**Featuring Dr. Anne Radice and the Presentation of
The Literacy Council Distinguished Partner Award**

**Monday, November 30, 2009
The Harbert Center, Downtown Birmingham**

**Presented by:
The Literacy Council**

Literacy starts with YOU.



Distinguished Partner Award Winners

The Literacy Council Distinguished Partner Awards are given annually to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to improve literacy in Central Alabama. One Distinguished Partner was chosen from each of the task force areas of *The Literacy Initiative*.

Adult Literacy Elizabeth Black, Bevill State Community College

Elizabeth is an Adult Education instructor at Bevill State Community College in Jasper. Last year Elizabeth had 105 students enrolled in her class and had the highest number of students to pass the GED (32) of any instructor in all of the five classes at Bevill State. She spends countless volunteer hours tutoring students, even at her own home, who need extra help. She has also been known to help needy students with electric bills, travel expenses, and pharmacy needs.

Children's and Family Literacy Mitchie Neel, Blount Co. Education Foundation

Mitchie retired from the Blount County Board of Education in 2008 after devoting 31 years to the school system—20 years as a teacher and 11 years as a curriculum coordinator. Among her successful efforts was the implementation of the Summer Read and Summer Academy programs, which provide intervention opportunities to approximately 200 students each year. Mitchie also led the implementation of the Alabama Reading Initiative in Blount County Schools. The DIBELS percent increased from 46% at benchmark in 2004 to 87% at benchmark in 2009. She currently serves as the part-time Executive Director of the Blount County Education Foundation, where she actively seeks grant opportunities for the Board of Education and the Education Foundation to enhance literacy efforts.

Civic and Social Justice Bill Halligan, Volunteer

Bill Halligan is co-founder and Executive Director of First Stop-Second Chance. The agency was founded to assist previously incarcerated people in meeting the challenges of a successful reentry into society — resettlement, reintegration, and recovery—using its evidence-based, *Total Integrated PIP System* or *TIPS*. Their approach uses a transition network of certified service providers. One of their key certified service providers is The Literacy Council. After food, clothing and shelter, an ex-offender's most basic need is the ability to read effectively. Bill has also taken an active leadership role with "Networking for a Brighter Future", a partnership of agencies created by the Birmingham Police Department and The Literacy Council.

Developing Literacy Resources Jake Reiss, Volunteer

Jake is the owner and manager of the Alabama Booksmith. For many years he has single-handedly recruited nationally and internationally known authors to serve as the headliners for The Literacy Council's popular "Signature Series". The "Signature Series" is currently The Literacy Council's longest running fund raiser and has featured dozens of notable writers including Cokie Roberts, Rick Bragg, Tracey Chevalier, John Grisham, Richard North Patterson and many more. Hundreds of donors (and their dollars!) have supported The Literacy Council's "Signature Series" as a result of Jake's tireless efforts.

Learning Difficulties and Disabilities Krista Guy, Central Alabama Dyslexia Support Group

Five years ago, Krista Guy was told by one of her 8-year-old son's teachers that her son would not be able to learn to read like his other classmates and would need "to get a special diploma" because he had a learning disability. Krista did not sleep that night. Frightened and confused, Krista aggressively searched for more information and sought advice from others that would help her determine the educational, social, and medical options for her son. In 2007, her tireless efforts led to the creation of the Central Alabama Dyslexia Support Group. The group started with 20 people and has grown to nearly 100 who meet regularly. At CADSG meetings they share experiences, compare teaching strategies and discuss research breakthroughs. Krista tirelessly advocates for children who need special reading instruction in order to learn to read and recently was asked to speak to the Special Education Advisory Board in Montgomery about her efforts to help her son and others like him. Krista is proud to acknowledge that her son is now reading at grade level.

Marketing Literacy Resources Tracy Thomas, Benchmark Designs

Tracy Thomas brings a wealth of graphic design experience to The Literacy Council. She contacted The Literacy Council in early 2009 with the desire to donate her time towards redesigning its annual report and quarterly newsletter. The Literacy Council staff members were overjoyed with the results. Tracy presented a new marketing comprehensive campaign for The Literacy Council titled *Literacy Starts with You*. This campaign will be on FOX 6 News, in newspapers and featured in other media outlets.

Workforce Development Literacy Sarah Horton, Governor's Office of Workforce Development

Sarah Horton is the Regional Workforce Initiatives Coordinator for the Governor's Office of Workforce Development. In this role, she travels throughout the state of Alabama establishing and coordinating Alabama's workforce readiness program including its career readiness certificate, which documents an individual's work-ready skills for the benefit of employers and educators. The worker-credentialing program is based on ACT's WorkKeys assessments called Career Ready Alabama. As a result of Sarah's efforts over the past 3 years, her office has issued more than 21,500 Career Readiness Certificates to Alabama citizens. Another major component of Career Ready Alabama is skills training, the purpose of which is to make sure Alabamians are properly prepared for the job/career they are pursuing. The training is free to every Alabama citizen through public organizations such as The Literacy Council.

Continued on next page

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Nancy Sales, Volunteer
Nancy coordinates the work of ESOL tutors at the Beloved Community Church program, and serves as an ESOL tutor. She facilitates coordination and communication among tutors and between the tutors and students. She also assists with recruitment. Nancy's ESOL interest began in Botswana when Angolan refugees asked the local church for help, and a group of members and friends organized a couple of small classes. Years later, she helped recruit and train ESOL tutors through the Christian Council of Metropolitan Atlanta. A member of the Literacy Providers Network, Nancy now provides English instruction and practice to meet the needs of a small groups of learners.

Financial Literacy Buffy Murphy, BancorpSouth

Buffy first became involved with financial literacy as a college student when she volunteered as an IRS VITA tax preparer and quickly realized that many people lacked basic financial skills. Later while starting her career, she volunteered to speak with students about financial literacy in Birmingham schools. As a result of her efforts, she was appointed to serve on the Alabama Department of Education Advisory Board to broaden the impact of financial education for youth in Alabama classrooms. In early 2002, she was asked by the National Jumpstart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy in Washington, DC, to start an Alabama-affiliated chapter. Since then she has been the speaker for over one hundred financial literacy conferences and events. In 2007, she was asked by the US Department of the Treasury and the National Bankers Association to speak as a representative of bankers from across the nation during a workshop titled "Financial Education at Postsecondary Institutions" that was held at the National Department of Education's Summit on Kindergarten Through Postsecondary Financial Education.

Health Literacy Joy Deupree, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Joy is Assistant Dean of Student Affairs at the UAB School of Nursing, and has been a trailblazer in the field of Health Literacy for more than 12 years. Her work began in 1997 when she became a certified Laubach literacy tutor and volunteered to tutor those in need. In 2001, an auspicious grant announcement came across her desk, and Joy soon found herself passionately involved in the field of health literacy. She applied for a \$100,000 grant as a co-investigator and was one of six recipients in the United States to receive the grant for that year. The grant funded work focusing on enhancing the health literacy skills caregivers (usually parents and grandparents) for children ages 6 months to 6 years of age, with special emphasis on fever management. The project resulted in an intervention for English and Spanish-speaking caregivers. The booklet created for the project is still in use today. She was appointed to the UAB Center of Community Health because of her work for health literacy and is often called upon by the School of Public Health to speak to classes about this important topic. Ms. Deupree has been educating people at the local, state, and national level for the past six years giving more than 40 speeches and presentations on health literacy.

Literacy Summit Luncheon

Emcee: Mickey Ferguson, *FOX 6 News*

Welcome

Keith Carter

Chairman, The Literacy Council Board of Directors

Invocation

Bud Jones, *Hope House*

Distinguished Partner Award Finalist #1

Learner Success Story

Kenneth Diffy, *Central Alabama Community College*

Doug Dutton Tutor of the Year Award Presentation

Fred McCallum, *President, AT&T Alabama*

Distinguished Partner Award Finalist #2

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Anne Radice

*Director of the Institute of Museum
and Library Services*

Distinguished Partner Award Finalist #3

Distinguished Partner 2009 Awards Recognition

Julie Beckham, *Executive Director, The Literacy Council*

Closing Remarks

Keith Carter

Chairman, The Literacy Council Board of Directors

Adjourn

Guest Speaker

Dr. Anne Radice
Director of Institute of Museum and
Library Services



On December 13, 2005, President George Bush appointed Anne-Imelda M. Radice, Ph.D., a distinguished art and architecture historian, museum professional, and administrator, to be Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The U.S. Senate confirmed Radice's nomination on March 13, 2006. IMLS, an independent United States government agency, is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums.

During her tenure, Radice created and is providing leadership for *Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action* (see www.ims.gov/collections), a national conservation initiative designed to raise public awareness, inspire action, and encourage private sector support. The initiative includes a National Conservation Summit, four forums on conservation taking place across the country, the distribution of 3,000 Conservation Bookshelves, and collaborative planning grants that will advance every state's collective conservation goals.

Thank you

The Literacy Council would like to thank the following companies and organizations for joining us as Partners for a Literate Community:

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