



RIF Multicultural Literacy Campaign



Advisory Committee

Advisory Committee Chair



Dr. Claude A. Mayberry, Jr.

Dr. Claude A. Mayberry, Jr. is the Founder & CEO of *Science Weekly*; a member of the RIF Board of Directors; a member of the Board of Directors, National Council on Educating Black Children; and a former math and science advisor to the National Commission on Excellence in Education.

Mayberry is the publisher of *Science Weekly*, a cross-curriculum periodical on current science topics for elementary school students, and related publications *Parents Make a Difference*. Mayberry has more than 30 years of experience as an educator and administrator in both K–12 and higher educational institutions. His many accomplishments include receiving the Marcus Foster Award for Leadership in the Education of African-American Children, membership on the Board of Trustees, Columbia University Teachers College, the Presidency of the National Commission for African-American Education.

Advisory Committee Members



Dr. Dorothy Strickland

Dr. Dorothy Strickland is the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Professor of Education and Senior Research Fellow at the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER), at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. She formerly served as the Arthur I. Gates Professor of Education at Teachers College Columbia University.

A former classroom teacher, reading consultant, and learning disabilities specialist, she is a past president of the International Reading Association (IRA) and the Reading Hall of Fame. She received IRA's Outstanding Teacher Educator of Reading Award, the 1998 National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Award as Outstanding Educator in the Language Arts, and the 1994 NCTE Rewey Belle Inglis Award as Outstanding Woman in the Teaching of English.

She has numerous publications in the field of reading and language arts. Her latest publications are *The Administration and Supervision of Reading Programs*, *Teaching Phonics Today*, *Beginning Reading and Writing*, *Supporting Struggling Readers and Writers*, and *Literacy Leadership in Early Childhood: The Essential Guide*.

Advisory Committee Members

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Dr. Joshua W. Murfree, Jr.

Dr. Joshua W. Murfree, Jr. is the executive assistant to the president, administrative chief of staff and director of athletics at Albany State University in Georgia. Murfree is a full professor with tenure. He also is the director of the Center for the African-American Male. At the 2006 National Convention Murfree received the National Alumni Award from Fort Valley State University.

Murfree serves as the National/International Mentoring Chairman of 100 Black Men of America, Inc. and at the 16th Annual National Conference was elected as the vice-president of programs. Murfree's professional background is in both counseling and clinical psychology. Formerly he was the chairman of the Department of Psychology, Sociology and Social Work at Albany State University and has spent several years researching teen suicide and teen violence. He has done opening sessions at the Congressional Black Caucus on panels with C. Deloris Tucker, Congressman John Lewis, and Ivan Juzang, and judges Glenda Johnson, James Graves, and Roosevelt Dorn.



Dr. Margarita Calderón

Dr. Margarita Calderón is a principal research scientist for the Center for Research on Education of Students Placed at Risk (CRESPAR) at Johns Hopkins University; co-principal investigator for the NICHD study on the transition from Spanish reading into English reading; director of the El Paso Adult Bilingual Curriculum Institute; and a member of the National Literacy Panel on Language Minority Children and Youth.

Calderón, a prolific author and researcher, serves on the National Research Council's Committee on Teacher Preparation, the National Literacy Panel for Language Minority Children and Youth, the Carnegie Adolescent ELL Literacy Panel, the IRA ELL Literacy Panel, and the California Pre-School Literacy Panel. She is principal investigator in a five-year study in middle and high schools called *Expediting Reading Comprehension for English Language Learners* that focuses on professional development for science, social studies, and language arts teachers of ELL. Calderón is co-principal investigator on the five-year evaluation of English immersion, transitional, and two-way bilingual programs, funded by the Institute for Education Sciences.

Advisory Committee Members

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Dr. Michael L. López

Dr. Michael L. López is executive director and co-founder of the National Center for Latino Child & Family Research; research consultant for the \$600 million First 5 LA universal preschool initiative; member of the Research Working Group of the White House Initiative on the Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans; consultant to the National Task Force on Early Childhood Education for Hispanics; and he is a founding member of the Steering Committee for the new Latino Caucus within the Society for Research on Child Development (SRCD).

Prior to launching the center, López directed the Child Outcomes Research and Evaluation team, in the Administration for Children and Families. He has directed a number of large-scale, national research projects, including the National Head Start Impact Study, the first ever randomized study examining the impact of Head Start on children's school readiness.



Dr. Bette Jacobs

Dr. Bette Jacobs is dean and professor of the School of Nursing & Health Studies, Georgetown University a position she has held since 1999. She is a noted leader in human services for American Indians; registered nurse; and a fellow of the American Academy of Nurses.

During her tenure, she has overseen a substantial growth in the school's research portfolio; the recruitment of high profile scholars; the continued development of four vibrant academic departments in Health Systems Administration, Human Science, International Health, and Nursing; and significant improvements in the school's facilities. Under her leadership, the school also launched the Center on Health and Education and—in partnership with Georgetown University Law Center—the Linda and Timothy O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law.

Jacobs is active in varied organizations and venues that advance health and well being for persons who live in high-risk environments and those who experience disabilities. In particular, she is an advocate for issues related to American Indian and global indigenous issues. She has testified on Capitol Hill on this topic, and she continues to publish in her field, which involves children with disabilities, maternal health, healthy equity, and health among American Indian communities. She is currently among a group of researchers on a five-year grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, titled *Preventing Child Neglect in High Risk Mothers*.

Advisory Committee Members

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Dr. Violet Harris

Dr. Violet Harris is a Professor of Curriculum and Instruction at University of Illinois of Urbana Champaign and a board member for *Voices from the Middle*.

Harris maintains active interest and conducts research in the areas of childrens literature, multicultural childrens literature, childrens book publishing, the historic development of African-American literacy, and literacy materials created specifically for African-Americans. Specifically, she is monitoring two trends in childrens literature: biracial/multiracial children and religion. *Voices from the Middle* is a publication of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) which dedicates each issue to one topic related to literacy at the middle school level. Each issue includes teacher descriptions of authentic classroom practices, student reviews of adolescent literature, a technology column, and reviews of professional resources for teachers.

Reading Is Fundamental, Inc. (RIF), founded in 1966, motivates children to read by working with them, their parents, and community members to make reading a fun and beneficial part of everyday life. RIF's highest priority is reaching underserved children from birth to age 8. Through community volunteers in every state and U.S. territory, RIF provides 4.5 million children with 16 million new, free books and literacy resources each year. For more information and to access reading resources, visit RIF's website at www.rif.org.

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