

January 4, 2016

Dear Administrator:

As you know, many reading difficulties can be resolved if effective intervention is provided early in a child's school career. However, up to 10% of all reading difficulties are "treatment resistant"—a condition often referred to as dyslexia. Students with these difficulties require specialized, intensive intervention from a highly trained professional. Unfortunately, few educators in Utah have the necessary expertise to provide these services.

In response, the University of Utah Reading Clinic (UURC)--with much-appreciated donations from the George S. and Dolores Dore Eccles Foundation and the Crawford Family Foundation--has established a scholarship fund for educators to receive professional development in this much-needed area.

The scholarships are specifically designed for practicing educators to complete certification for *Wilson Reading System*<sup>®</sup> (*WRS*) *Level I*--a highly effective intervention for students with severe reading difficulties. The UURC is in its fourteenth year of providing this intensive professional development experience and the response has been overwhelmingly positive from educators, parents, and students.

Enclosed is a description of practicum requirements and an application for our 2016-2017 *WRS*<sup>®</sup> *Level I* year-long certification practicum. **This year we have three options available for the practicum delivery.**

Option 1: The *WRS* Level I certification practicum will be taught at our Murray, Utah site.

Option 2: The *WRS* Level I certification web-based practicum (ideally, but not exclusively, for individuals in areas where a distance model would be appropriate).

Option 3: The *WRS* Level I certification site-based practicum (6 or more educators from a school or district, observations in your district).

We encourage all interested practicing educators to examine these materials carefully and consider making an application. We also encourage you to make copies of this letter and share it with other potential applicants. This application is also available on-line at: [www.uurc.org](http://www.uurc.org).

*WRS*<sup>®</sup> *Level I* Certification and UURC Practicum Requirements

- attend a 3-day *WRS*<sup>®</sup> Introductory Workshop at our Murray location (April 26-28, 2016)
- workshop registration fee is \$250 (includes lunch all 3 days).
- tutor 1 student at least twice per week (approximately 1 hour/lesson) for a minimum of 60 lessons
- conduct baseline, progress monitoring, and post assessments
- attend at least 4 out of 5 *WRS*<sup>®</sup> *Level I* implementation meetings
- complete 5 tutoring observations with Wilson trainer
- attend at least 3 out of 4 UURC coaching sessions
- complete Steps 1-6 of the Wilson online course

***It is important to note that this practicum is extremely time-intensive (at least a school year in length) and the requirements described above are mandatory.*** Trainings, observations, and coaching sessions will be held primarily during the school day. This may necessitate arrangements for substitutes, as well as transportation to and from the UURC for observations.

The total cost of this training exceeds \$2,500 per individual. **However**, educators who receive a scholarship will be responsible for the following approximate costs:

- 3-day *WRS*<sup>®</sup> *Introductory Workshop* registration fee (\$250) or tuition differential (\$250) if educator attended a *WRS*<sup>®</sup> *Introductory Workshop* somewhere other than the UURC.
- all tutoring materials (approximately \$175).
- transportation of self (and student, if applicable) to and from UURC.
- Web-based only – flexible document camera (e.g., *HUE*, \$50)
- *WRS* Starter Set - one kit per educator (**Order #: 978-156778-159-5, \$149.00**)
- access to the Wilson Word identification and Spelling Test (WIST), this is available from Wilson or ProEd. We recommend that each district have access to a WIST. A *WRS* Starter Set that also includes a WIST can be purchased at a discounted price (**Order Item #: WRSCERTSET \$369.00**). If educators already purchased *WRS* Starter Sets and will be continuing this coming school year with a Level 1 Certification Practicum, they are eligible to receive a 15% discount from Wilson on the purchase of a WIST assessment kit.

Given the challenging nature of this practicum, previous participants have found that collegial support is very important. With this in mind, applicants are encouraged to “yoke” their applications in pairs. Priority in the awarding of scholarships will be given to highly qualified pairs of practicing educators working in the same school or district.

Please note that completed applications are due at the UURC no later than (March 18, 2016). Completed applications may be emailed to [michele.blake@utah.edu](mailto:michele.blake@utah.edu), or brought, or mailed to: Wilson Scholarship 2016-2017, UURC, 5242 South College Drive (approximately 480 West), Suite 100, Murray, UT 84123. Applicants will be notified regarding their status no later than (April 1, 2016).

If participation in the year-long practicum is not feasible during the 2016-2017 school year, interested educators are still encouraged to attend the UURC’s 3-day *WRS*<sup>®</sup> *Introductory Workshop* on (April 26-28, 2016). This workshop does not certify educators in Wilson but it does provide valuable training and fills a **prerequisite** for the *WRS*<sup>®</sup> *Level I* year-long practicum. The registration fee for all attendees is \$250, (lunches are included). Educators should register for this workshop online. Visit [www.uurc.org](http://www.uurc.org) and click on the educator tab for more information.

We believe this is an exciting opportunity to expand intervention resources for Utah’s most impaired readers by providing high quality, intensive professional development for dedicated educators. If you have questions regarding the scholarship or the two practicum options, please contact Ms. Michele Blake at 801-265-3951, [michele.blake@utah.edu](mailto:michele.blake@utah.edu), or Ms. Grace Craig at 801-265-3951, [grace.craig@utah.edu](mailto:grace.craig@utah.edu).

Sincerely,

Dr. Kathleen J. Brown, Director  
University of Utah Reading Clinic

**The University of Utah Reading Clinic, The George S. and Dolores Dore Eccles  
Foundation, and The Crawford Family Foundation  
Scholarship Application  
2016 - 2017**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Applicant with whom your application is *yoked* \_\_\_\_\_

**Option 1:** observations at the UURC in Murray, UT

**Option 2:** web-based observations       Open to either Option 1 or 2

**Site-based** (6 or more educators from a school or district, observations in your district)

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home Email \_\_\_\_\_

Current Position \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Email \_\_\_\_\_

Have you attended a WRS<sup>®</sup> Introductory Workshop within the last 5 years? \_\_\_\_\_

Where Attended \_\_\_\_\_ Date Attended \_\_\_\_\_

\*\* If you have not attended a WRS<sup>®</sup> Introductory Workshop within the last 5 years you must register for the 3-day workshop online at [www.uurc.org](http://www.uurc.org) .

University Degrees & Certifications \_\_\_\_\_

Relevant Educational Experience \_\_\_\_\_

Reference Name, Position, and Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Reference Name, Position, and Phone \_\_\_\_\_

