



## October 28, 2015

In this edition of NIFDI News!

- Two Direct Instruction Schools Earn National Blue Ribbon School Award
- Research News
- Register for NIFDI Coaching Academies

If you have questions or need additional information, you can reach us at 877.485.1973 or [info@nifdi.org](mailto:info@nifdi.org).

## Two Direct Instruction Schools Earn National Blue Ribbon Schools Award

Two Montana schools that utilize *Reading Mastery* as their core curriculum are receiving a Blue Ribbon recognition from the U.S. Department of Education. The award is given based on a school's academic achievement (Exemplary High Performing School) or for closing achievement gaps among student subgroups (Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing).



Margaret Leary Elementary School is located in Butte, Montana, and is the recipient of the Exemplary High Performing School Award. The Title I school began using *Reading Mastery* 12 years ago as a part of the Reading First initiative. In their award application it is noted that in the school year 2012-13, **98% of the students in grades three through six scored proficient or advanced** on the Montana reading assessment. According to 4-year Principal Brett Huntsman, the former curriculum director (now Superintendent), Judy Jonart, and former Leary principal (now Curriculum Director), "Made a strong commitment to Reading Mastery. They kept the reading coaches intact and continue to support the program." Long-time consultant Molly Blakely adds, "They have been very diligent in their implementation."



Hellgate Intermediate Elementary School in Missoula, Montana, is the recipient of a Blue Ribbon recognition for Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing. The school, serving grades 3-5, has utilized Reading Mastery and Corrective Reading as their core reading curriculum for 8 years. Principal Chris Clevenger notes the strong emphasis on staff development has played in their success. "All teachers are on the same page," when making curricular decisions. Leadership emphasizes a collaborative model to help ensure wide support.

NIFDI sends their congratulations to these two fine schools and wishes them continued success. The National Blue Ribbon Awards will be presented by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan in Washington, D.C. on November 9-10.

## Language for Learning/Autism Study Added to Direct Instruction Research Database



We are continually looking for quality research articles to include in the DI Database (<http://nifdi.org/research/database/di-research-database>). One has just been added, highlighting the use of Language for Learning (LL) with students with autism. The article, *Effectiveness of the Direct Instruction Language for Learning Curriculum Among Children Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder*, by Sillingsburg, Bowen, Peterman and Gayman, was published in *Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities* this year. The study shows that the LL students scored significantly higher than

pretest scores. Students in the LL group also demonstrated significantly higher language skills than students in the no-exposure group. To view the abstract and request a full copy of the text go to <http://nifdi.org/research/database/di-research-database?view=publication&task=show&id=361>

## Still Time to Register for NIFDI Coaching II Academy



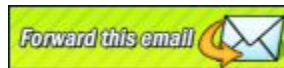
November 19 & 20 we will be in Arlington Heights, Illinois to present **Coaching II-Conducting Classroom Observations & Providing Feedback**. This session will provide participants with information and practice in:

- \* Refining observational skills to increase the coach's ability to provide data-driven feedback.
- \* Facilitating rehearsal sessions.
- \* Determining the appropriate intervention based on data and observation.
- \* Facilitating Data Analysis Team meetings to find and solve student performance problems in a timely manner.

Don't be concerned that you didn't attend the Coaching Academy I, held in October. The content of each session is designed to stand on its own-you don't have to attend both, and if you do, you don't have to attend them in order.

Academy trainer, Dr. Carrie Beck, is NIFDI National Implementation Coordinator. Her earlier work includes 10 years as a research associate at the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) at the University of Oregon. Earlier in her career, Dr. Beck worked five years as an Implementation Manager/Project Director for NIFDI, supporting schoolwide Direct Instruction implementations in schools throughout the United States.

To register, visit us [online](#) or call Bryan at 877.485.1973.



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