January 11, 2019

Dear Administrator:

Reading difficulties can be resolved if effective intervention is provided early in a child’s school career. However, up to 10% of severe reading difficulties (i.e. dyslexia) 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, Boon Philanthropy, 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® (WRS) Level I*--a highly effective intervention for students with severe reading difficulties. The UURC is in its seventeenth 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 2019-2020 *WRS® 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 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 will be done 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® Level I Certification and UURC Practicum Requirements**

- Attend a 3-day *WRS®* Introductory Workshop at our Murray location (Dates: August 27, 28, 29, 2019 or September 10, 11, 12, 2019)
  - **Workshop fee is $350** (includes lunch all 3 days).
- **Level I practicum course fee is an additional $350** (includes 9 University of Utah credits).  *Course fee due when participant accepts scholarship offer.*
- Tutor 1 student at least twice per week (at least 1 hour/lesson) for a minimum of 65 lessons
- Conduct baseline, progress monitoring, and post assessments
- Attend at least 4 out of 5 *WRS® 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 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® Introductory Workshop* fee (**$350**) plus the *Level I practicum course fee ($350*) price subject to change).
- Tutoring supplies (approximately $175).
- Transportation of self (and student, if applicable) to and from UURC.
- Web-based only – *flexible document camera* (i.e. HUE, approx. $100, price subject to change).
- Access to the Wilson Word Identification and Spelling Test (*WIST*), available from Wilson or ProEd. Although copies of the WIST are available for loan from the UURC, we recommend that if you are a significant driving distance from Murray you purchase at least one WIST kit for your district or school.
- Given the challenging nature of this practicum, 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.

Applications are due at the UURC no later than **March 28, 2019**. Completed applications may be emailed to michele.blake@utah.edu, or brought, or mailed to: Wilson Scholarship 2019-2020, UURC, 5242 South College Drive (approximately 480 West), Suite 100, Murray, UT 84123. Applicants will be notified regarding their status no later than April 12, 2019.

**Attending the workshop does not certify educators in Wilson but it does provide valuable training and fills a prerequisite for the *WRS® Level I year-long practicum***. The registration fee for all attendees is **$350**. (Please inform UURC of any dietary restrictions). Educators should register for this workshop online. Visit www.uurc.org and click on the educator tab for more information.

If you have questions regarding the scholarship or the practicum options, please contact Ms. Michele Blake at 801-265-3951, michele.blake@utah.edu, Ms. Grace Craig at 801-265-3951, grace.craig@utah.edu, or Ms. Holly Dean at 801-265-3951, holly.dean@utah.edu.

Sincerely,

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