Announcing the 2015
Master Reading Teacher Institute,
The University of Texas at Austin
June 8-July 2, 2015
Monday through Thursday 9 am-4 pm
(with a mandatory orientation meeting on Friday, June 5th 1-3 pm)

Purpose:
The Master Reading Teacher program is offered in cooperation with the Texas Reading Initiative with a goal of improving the quality of reading instruction in the state. The Institute has been designed with the major content learning goals identified by the Texas legislature (House Bill 2307) in creating the Master Reading Teacher Certificate. These learning goals include the development of teachers’:

- knowledge of reading instruction and assessment across age groups and developmental levels;
- appropriate use and interpretation of reading assessments that inform instruction;
- awareness of the performance standards intended to guide instructional planning and goal setting;
- knowledge of the relationships between primary and second language and how to build on these understandings;
- knowledge and use of the characteristics, qualities, and needs of students with reading difficulties; and,
- understanding of professional leadership skills involving mentoring, collaboration, and research.

Those seeking MRT certification will need to complete 100 hours of practicum work during the Fall 2015 semester (September through December). These practicum hours may be arranged around ongoing work responsibilities as a teacher working to integrate the concepts and strategies presented in the summer institute into the instruction of students. The practicum experience will be personalized to fit the needs of each of the MRT candidates and will be overseen and supported by the program area faculty.

Those who successfully complete the coursework and ongoing practicum hours will be eligible to take the state examination for the Master Reading Teacher certificate. Program completion and passing this examination are two of the requirements for certification.

We urge you to visit the State Board of Education Certification (SBEC) website to get the most updated information on the Master Reading Teacher Certificate (http://www.tea.state.tx.us/curriculum/master/). You can find specific information on the examination schedule as well as test preparation materials.
All participants in the Institute must have a minimum of two years classroom teaching experience. The MRT exam can be taken once the third year of classroom teaching experience is completed.

_for all students, attendance and participation is mandatory._ All students are expected to attend the Summer Institute for all scheduled days between the hours of 9 am and 4 pm. Given the short-term duration and intensity of the Institute there is no easy to make up for absences. One day of absence is allowed, however you are responsible for having your tutorial responsibilities covered. Any absences in excess of one will need to be negotiated with the faculty on the first day of class. Additional work outside of the Institute may be required to insure that the content goals are addressed.

All students who wish to take the Master Reading Teacher certification exam will be required to attend seminars in the Fall 2015 semester to reflect on their participation in literacy leadership and changes in teaching as a result of the course.

There are three categories of Institute Participants. The requirements may vary as a function of enrollment status:

**Degree seeking students.** Students who have already been admitted to the University of Texas at Austin graduate school and are pursuing either a doctorate or a master's degree should enroll in the Institute through regular summer course enrollment (6 semester hours—EDC 390T Reading and Inquiry and EDC 390T Literacy and Inquiry). These students will pay graduate school tuition rates upon registration. 2014 rates can be found at [http://www.utexas.edu/business/accounting/pubs/tf_grad_summer14.pdf](http://www.utexas.edu/business/accounting/pubs/tf_grad_summer14.pdf); these may change slightly for 2015)

**Non-degree seeking students.** Students who are not currently admitted to UT Austin have the option of enrolling in the Institute as a "non-degree seeking student". To do this you must complete an application form and supporting materials. If, in the future, you would like to pursue an advanced degree at UT you can apply these six hours toward your graduate degree. These course hours (6 hours maximum) will apply toward your program at UT or at most other colleges and Universities.

_Students enrolled as “Degree seeking” or “Non-Degree Seeking” who wish to pursue Master Reading Teacher Certification will be required to pay $200 to complete the continuing practicum experience._

_Institute Participant._ These participants are enrolled in the Institute only. No graduate course hour credit will accrue. The Fee is **$1200.00.** This fee covers both the Summer Institute and the Practicum experience.
Deadlines and Application Process

Space in the MRT Institute is limited to twenty students. The application deadline is **March 23, 2015**. You must send a letter indicating your interest in applying to:

Master Reading Teacher Institute  
1 University Station, D5700  
Department of Curriculum and Instruction SZB 406  
The University of Texas at Austin  
Austin, TX 78712

You must include an application fee of $100.00. The check should be made out to: The University of Texas at Austin. We will hold this check. If you are approved for entry into the program, your application fee will be applied to your registration fee of $1200.00. If you are not approved for entry, the check will be destroyed.

**You must indicate in your cover letter if you intend to enroll in the program as a graduate student (degree or non-degree seeking) or as an Institute Only Participant.**

You must include in your cover letter contact information including a current email address.

You must also include a statement of purpose for applying to this program. This statement of purpose should be no longer than two pages (double-spaced). The statement should include information related to your background in teaching and your future goals.

**INFORMATION SESSION.** We will hold an information session on the 2015 Master Reading Teacher program on Wednesday March 11th at 5 pm on campus at UT: The Sanchez Building, Room 334. Attendance at this informational session is optional. [http://www.utexas.edu/maps/main/buildings/szb.html](http://www.utexas.edu/maps/main/buildings/szb.html)  
Parking is available in the Brazos Garage (BRG) at an hourly rate. Please let us know if you’re coming: mmwetzel@utexas.edu.

Notification

You will be notified regarding your acceptance to the program by April 22nd, 2015 or earlier. If you have any questions regarding this program, please email Melissa Wetzel at mmwetzel@utexas.edu.