

**INTERNATIONAL**  
**Reading Association**



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Asociación Internacional de Lectura ● Association Internationale pour la Lecture  
Telephone 302-731-1600 ● Fax 302-731-1057 ● [www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org)

July 27, 2010

Dear State/Provincial Council Leader:

The Board of the Directors of the International Reading Association has made a change in the staff and has been issued the following statement:

The Board of Directors of the International Reading Association announces the selection of Mark Mullen as the Acting Executive Director. Mullen has been the Deputy Executive Director for the past seven years and has previously served as a superintendent, principal, and teacher. Mullen replaces William B. Harvey who is leaving the association to pursue other interests.

The International Reading Association, the leading professional organization for reading educators, is dedicated to providing continuing and ongoing professional development for teachers, administrators, and policy makers in order to advance the quality of reading instruction and research worldwide. The Association works toward this goal through more than 65,000 members in 100 countries. A network of more than 1,200 councils and more than 50 national affiliates forms the working foundation of the Association. For a complete update of IRA conferences, books, journals, webinars, and events please go to [www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org).

I want to assure you that this change in staff will not change the Association's commitment toward seeking ways to improve the working relationship between the Association and our state and provincial councils. We are looking forward to the North American Leadership Workshop taking place in Grapevine, Texas, August 6 through 8, as well as working with the councils throughout the year toward our mutual goal of promoting literacy.

There are several key issues, however, that we hope you will give us more input on. We are aware of the complex challenges facing teachers—including new standards are being integrated with old, funding levels are not keeping pace with the needs of our students, and opportunities for ongoing professional development are being shut down. We also know that these issues impact the well being of your councils and threaten the flow of information to your members who endeavor to improve their teaching. We don't have all of the answers, but we are committed to working with you as we seek the answers.

Please feel free to contact me, IRA Board members, and staff members to discuss, not only the issues you think should be addressed, but also the best ways we can meet your council's needs as we address them.

We can and will work through these challenges together; I look forward to continuing to work with you and for you as we strive to help every teacher become a better teacher or reading.

Sincerely yours,

Mark Mullen  
Acting Executive Director

MM/kdb

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**ACTING EXECUTIVE  
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Mark Mullen

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