



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

## Public Library

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **READ/San Diego Named One of Top Community Partnerships in Nation by U.S. Department of Education**

**SAN DIEGO** – READ/San Diego, the adult literacy program of the City of San Diego Public Library and the San Diego County Library, has been chosen by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, as one of 12 promising community partnerships from around the country that support adult education. READ/San Diego provides free tutoring services for adults 18 years of age and older in San Diego Public and San Diego County branch libraries as well as in partnership programs throughout the City and County.

A Partnership Profile, an extensive description of the local partnerships for San Diego, is featured on the Community Partnerships for Adult Learning (C-PAL) Web site ([www.c-pal.net](http://www.c-pal.net)). The C-Pal initiative aims to foster community partnerships to support adult education, and the Partnership Profiles document a variety of promising approaches. The Web site is the primary source of information for C-PAL and contains many resources for creating, sustaining, or improving partnerships for adult education.

The 12 community partnerships named were selected from a larger pool of nominees because they showed characteristics of strong community partnerships, according to a statement issued by the OVAE.

“It is a tremendous honor to be one of the 12 programs chosen by the Department of Education as having promising community partnerships,” said Chris McFadden, literacy administrator for READ/San Diego. “It says a lot about volunteer-based programs like ours when you consider that many of the other programs studied use paid teachers. READ/San Diego is the only library-based adult education program to be selected.”

According to McFadden, the Office of Vocational and Adult Education sent a research and consulting firm, MPR Associates Inc., to do an on-site visit and write a report about READ/San Diego’s community partnerships.

“The research and consulting group spent about a week here, talking to our students, volunteers and partners,” he said. “It was a very intense week. They tried to get to the bottom of what is a good community partnership.”

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**READ/San Diego Receives Promising Partnership Recognition by U.S. Department of Education**

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“The recognition of READ/San Diego by the Department of Education acknowledges Library’s hard work and the dedication of the program’s staff to improve literacy in San Diego,” said City Library Director Anna Tatár. “We are very proud of this honor.”

The researchers studied READ/San Diego’s workplace literacy program partnership with the City of San Diego Water Department, the family literacy program partnerships with Mountain Health & Community Services in Campo and with retailer Starbucks Coffee Co., and the adult literacy partnerships with faith-based 31<sup>st</sup> Street Seventh Day Adventist Church and St. Vincent de Paul Village in San Diego.

“The researchers looked at our formal partnerships and our process of choosing partners carefully,” McFadden said. “They also looked closely at finances and how programs are funded. We have found that a strong financial basis provides stability for the partnerships. I think that’s key. Our partners share the financial responsibility for the programs we provide. Our ultimate goal is to teach adults to read and write, and the purpose of entering into any partnership is to reach that goal.”

The other partnerships selected for this initiative are: Nine Star Enterprises in Anchorage, Alaska; the WAGE program in El Dorado, Ark.; The Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition in Palm Beach County, Fla.; The Certified Literate Community Program in Houston County, Ga.; The North Idaho College Adult Education Center in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho; Jefferson County Public Schools Adult and Continuing Education in Louisville, Ky.; Juntos in Holyoke, Mass.; The Cedar Riverside Adult Education Collaborative in Minneapolis, Minn.; The Decker Family Development Center in Barberton, Ohio; The Donald H. Londer Center in Portland, Ore.; and the Midlands Literacy Initiative (now called the Education, Jobs and Life Skills Council) in Columbia, S.C.

Community Partnerships for Adult Learning is managed by MPR Associates, Inc., an education research and consulting firm, with support from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education.

For more information about Community Partnerships for Adult Learning, visit the Web site at [www.c-pal.net](http://www.c-pal.net), or contact Kathy Chernus, Senior Associate, MPR Associates Inc. at 202-478-1027, Ext. 102.

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