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LITERACY, Inc. (LINC) Recognized for Excellent Partnerships



From left to right, front row: Mimi Lieber, Founder and Board Chairperson, Literacy, Inc. (LINC), Irma Zardoya, Superintendent, Community School District Ten, Kim Suttell, Program Director, LINC, Joan Prince, Director, School Leadership Teams, Community School District Ten.

From left to right, back row: Ronn Jordan, LINC Coordinator, Debora Mulrain, LINC Field Supervisor, Lisa Holmes, LINC Coordinator, Deborah Dessaure, LINC Team Leader, Miguel Melendez, Director, Office of Parent and Family Involvement, Community School District Ten. Not in the picture: Ruby Whidbee and Cheryl Green, LINC Coordinators.

September 1, 2002, NYC— Literacy, Inc. (LINC) was recognized by the National Network of Partnership Schools at John Hopkins University as a Partnership Organization Award winner for the 2001-2002 school year. Literacy, Inc. (LINC) is honored for its excellence in guiding districts and schools in developing comprehensive programs of school, family, and community partnerships.

LINC's work with District 10 (Bronx, NY), for over 5 years, was highlighted in the application as a major partner in promoting early literacy in their local community. LINC is also recognized for its active involvement in Community School Districts 6, 15, and 28 (NYC, Brooklyn and Queens respectively). Over 80 community partners, organized and coordinated by LINC, participate actively in supporting early reading in this district. These partners include community based organizations, merchants, research groups and universities.

Vera Weintraub, Executive Director and Sheila Sussman, consultant and key contact to the National Network, submitted an application with detailed descriptions and evidence of research-based approaches that were conducted with collaborating districts and schools. The essential elements of excellent and sustained programs include teamwork, leadership, plans for action, implementation, facilitation, evaluation, and network connections.

“The 2002 Partnership Award winners are showing how research-based approaches can be used to help all families become involved in their children’s education at home, at school, and in the community to increase student success in school,” says Dr. Joyce L. Epstein, Director of the National Network of Partnership Schools.

LINC was founded by NYS Regent Emerita Mimi Lieber, to advance early literacy by organizing and coordinating literacy resources around local elementary schools. Irma Zardoya, Superintendent, Community School District Ten, says that “Literacy, Inc. (LINC) is one of the most important organizations in New York City working with schools, parents and community organizations.”