

**MICHIGAN READING ASSOCIATION
PAST PRESIDENTS' LEGACY FUND CONFERENCE GRANT, 2009
APPLICATION FOR AN EDUCATOR NEW TO A PROFESSIONAL ROLE**

Title _____ First Name _____ Middle Initial _____ Last Name _____

Home Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone Number _____ Work Phone number _____

Work Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

E-Mail Address _____ Fax Number _____

Current Educational Position (Subject, Level, Title) _____

Years of Experience (1 or 2) in this position _____ Total years as an educator _____ Certified by the State of Michigan as an: _____ aide, _____ teacher, _____ administrator, _____ other If other, please specify _____

School _____

School District: _____

District Superintendent _____ Immediate Supervisor _____

Highest Degree Held _____ Major Emphasis/Specialty _____ Year Conferred _____

Have you previously attended a Michigan Reading Association Annual Conference? Yes No

On the attached Personal Statement form I state my reasons for wishing to attend the Michigan Reading Association Annual Conference with particular attention to:

- How my participation will enhance my professional abilities to improve reading
- How I will share what I learn with professional colleagues.
- How I intend to be actively involved in MRA, a local council or special interest council in the coming year.

Costs for which I am requesting assistance (registration, transportation, lodging, etc.) and anticipated sources of funding:

<u>Expenses funded through other sources</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>PPLF Funding Assistance</u>	<u>Requested Amount</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Total Anticipated Expenses (Less amount requested from funding sources) \$: _____

I am a member of the International Reading Association Yes No

I am a member of the Michigan Reading Association Yes No

I am a member of a local chapter or special interest council Yes No

Council name _____

Membership is helpful, but not required
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If my request is approved, I understand that I will be reimbursed for expenses up to the amount of the grant (\$100) once I have fully completed the requirements of this grant, namely 1) I will attend the Past Presidents dinner during the MRA Annual Conference as a guest of the Past Presidents' Legacy Fund Committee 2) I must submit the documentation of expenses (receipts) within fourteen (14) days after the MRA conference. 3) I must submit a report by April 1, 2009 for inclusion in the MRA newsletter, *News and Views*, focusing on the impact on my professional growth to improve reading as a result of participation in the MRA Annual Conference, 4) I will participate in some way in MRA and the next MRA Annual Conference or a local or special interest council in the coming year, 5) If I am unable to attend the MRA Annual Conference, I will notify the PPLF Conference Grant Chair immediately.

Signature (Required): _____ Date: _____

Application postmark deadlines on or before November 1, 2008

Send original and four copies of completed application and support documents to: Mrs. Gwen Graham

Applications may be electronically submitted via the MRA website

www.michiganreading.org or e-mail: mra@michiganreading.org

with written notification to Mrs. Gwen Graham at the time of the submission

PPLF Conference Grant Committee Chair

819 W. Shiawassee Avenue

Fenton, Michigan 48430

Questions?

Contact Michigan Reading Association 1-800-672-7323 or e-mail mra@michiganreading.org

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Applicant's Personal Statement

Name _____ Date _____

In 250 words or less, state your reasons for wishing to attend the MRA Annual Conference and why MRA should select you to receive the PPLF Conference Grant. Give particular attention to how your participation will enhance your professional abilities to improve reading; how you will share what you have learned with professional colleagues; and how you intend to be involved with MRA, a local council or a special interest council.

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APPLICATION CHECKLIST:

- PPLF Conference Grant Application Form
- Two letters of support. Letters are limited to one page each. For example, you may choose to solicit a letter from an administrator, a local or special interest council, or university instructor.
- A personal statement of 250 words or less stating your reasons for wishing to attend the MRA Annual Conference and why MRA should select you to receive the PPLF Conference Grant. Give particular attention to:
 - How your participation will enhance your professional abilities to improve reading.
 - How you will share what you've learned with professional colleagues.
 - How you will be actively involved in MRA, a local council or special interest council in the coming year.
- Submit application and support documents via postal services by November 1, 2008 to:
 - Mrs. Gwen Graham
 - Past Presidents' Legacy Fund Conference Grant Committee Chair
 - 819 W. Shiawassee Avenue
 - Fenton, Michigan 48430

Or electronic submission to the MRA website (www.michiganreading.org) or e-mail to mra@michiganreading.org on or before November 1, 2008 with written notification to Mrs. Gwen Graham at the time of submission.

REMINDERS:

As a recipient of the PPLF Conference Grant you agree to:

- Attend the Past Presidents Dinner, held on Saturday evening of the Michigan Reading Association Annual Conference, as a guest of the Past Presidents' Legacy Fund Committee.
- Submit documentation of expenses (receipts) and verification of attendance within fourteen (14) days after the MRA conference
- Share the impact of this experience on your professional growth to improve reading with the MRA membership by writing a brief article submitted by April 1, 2009 to the PPLF Conference Grant Committee Chair for MRA's newsletter, *News and Views*;
- participate in some way in MRA and the next MRA Annual Conference or a local or special interest council in the coming year.
- Notify the PPLF Conference Grant Chair immediately if you are unable to attend the MRA Annual Conference.

Payment of the PPLF Conference Grant will be made once the above agreements have been fulfilled.

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Information Sheet

Thank you for seeking information concerning the Michigan Reading Association's Past Presidents' Legacy Fund Conference Grant for Professional Development.

What is the Michigan Reading Association?

The Michigan Reading Association is a dynamic and diverse organization whose mission is to promote literacy. MRA believes that:

- Reading is the key to learning.
- Everyone has the responsibility to promote literacy.
- Diversity contributes to understanding and positive social action.
- Literacy practice and policy demand knowledgeable decision makers

What is the Past Presidents' Legacy Fund Conference Grant?

This permanently endowed Past Presidents' Legacy Fund was established October, 2006 through the generosity of many past presidents of Michigan Reading Association, MRA Board members, and friends of MRA in celebration of MRA's 50th anniversary. **The PPLF Conference Grant is given to an individual to provide assistance in attending the MRA Annual Conference for the first time. It is granted to an educator new to a professional role in the last two years.** That role can be one of instruction, administration, assessment or support (such as an aide) related to reading improvement. For the purposes of this grant, professional development is defined as "*a growth-promoting learning process that empowers employed educators, early-career educators, and second-educational-career educators to further excellence in education.*" The PPLF Conference Grant is available to Michigan educators who meet the above criteria; however, special emphasis is placed on applicants who are early-career or second-educational-career educators.

What does the PPLF Conference Grant fund?

The PPLF Conference Grant financially assists the recipient's attendance at the Michigan Reading Association Annual Conference that will contribute significantly to the educator's own professional development. The grant may pay for registration fees, travel, lodging, conference luncheon or dinner, and/or substitute teacher costs incurred in attending the MRA Annual Conference.

Who may apply and how often?

Educators, including but not limited to classroom teachers, teacher leaders, literacy coaches, instructional aides, administrators, **who are new to a professional role in the last two years are eligible to apply to attend the MRA Annual Conference for the first time.** PPLF Conference Grant recipients shall be awarded the PPLF Conference Grant only once. Applicants may apply the following year should the preceding year's application be unsuccessful. Applications will be considered only if postmarks are on or before the deadline date of November 1, 2008. Decisions regarding the level of funding and notification to the PPLF Conference Grant recipient and to the other PPLF Conference Grant applicants regarding non-funding will be made approximately one month after the application deadline.

Recipients of the PPLF Conference Grant are encouraged to attend the MRA Annual Conference the following year and participate in an active role, and/or become involved actively in a local or special interest council. Recipients will be given assistance to become involved.

Original and four copies of the application mailed by November 1, 2008 to:

Applications may be electronically submitted using the MRA website www.michiganreading.org or e-mail mra@michiganreading.org with written notification to Mrs. Gwen Graham at the time of submission

Mrs. Gwen Graham
PPLF Conference Grant Committee Chair
819 W. Shiawassee Avenue
Fenton, Michigan 48430

When will the PPLF Conference Grant funds be distributed?

If an application is approved, the recipient will receive funds upon fulfillment of the following:

- attend the Past Presidents' dinner at the MRA Annual Conference, as a guest of the PPLF Committee.
- verification of participation (copies of receipts and/or registration) and documentation of expenses submitted to MRA PPLF Conference Grant Chair within fourteen (14) days after completion date;
- submission of a written article by April 1, 2009 for MRA's newsletter, *News and Views*, focusing on the impact on professional growth resulting from participation in the MRA Annual Conference.

Questions?

Contact Michigan Reading Association 1-800-672-7323 or e-mail mra@michiganreading.org