



**New Mexico Council of the
International Reading Association**

A NON-PROFIT PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION

*Recipient, IRA Award of Excellence 2002
Student Membership Award 2002*



Mr. Ronald Haugen, Superintendent
Gadsden Independent School District
PO Drawer 70
Anthony, NM 88021

Dear Mr. Haugen:

On April 20 – 21, 2007, the New Mexico International Reading Association (NMIRA) will be holding its annual state reading conference in the Las Cruces – Anthony area. This conference gives teachers in southern New Mexico the opportunity to network with other teachers as well as the chance to enhance their knowledge on current literacy issues. The conference will be bringing to this area well respected leaders in reading/literacy such as: Georgia Heard, Sharon Taberski, and Carol Avery. Gadsden teachers have been using information from these experts in their classrooms in their implementation of Balanced Literacy and now have the opportunity to meet and hear them first-hand. What a way to validate their classroom experiences!

The Gadsden council of NMIRA is 140 members strong—as large as the Albuquerque council. It is with the commitment of these teachers to the issues surrounding literacy in mind that NMIRA is requesting that the Gadsden District schedule an additional professional development day for Friday, April 20th. Finding enough qualified substitutes on a daily basis is difficult for the schools. By scheduling a professional development day on April 20th, all teachers, instructional assistants, and administrators at the elementary and middle school level in the district may participate without overburdening the substitute system.

We hope that our request will be granted. If you are in need of additional information, please do not hesitate to call me at 505-882-6758.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Ann Steinhoff
NMIRA State Conference Chair



Literacy Changes Lives