



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Literacy Experts, Leaders in Assessment Slated
for the 2006 Lexile National Reading Conference in Atlanta**

Early Bird Registration Available Through Feb. 28

DURHAM, N.C. - Feb. 8, 2006 - Educators are invited to join literacy experts and Lexile® users from around the country for the 2006 Lexile National Reading Conference, "Developing Tomorrow's Readers... Today," June 19-21 in Atlanta. Now in its third year, the conference will feature nationally recognized keynote speakers on reading and assessment as well as sessions on implementing The Lexile Framework® for Reading in schools, districts and states. Discounted early bird registration is available through Feb. 28.

"We have an outstanding line-up of experts in literacy and linking assessment to instruction scheduled to present at our 2006 national conference," said Malbert Smith III, Ph.D., president, MetaMetrics® Inc., developer of The Lexile Framework. "Educators who are successfully using Lexiles to improve student achievement will gather for three days filled with opportunities to share best practices and proven strategies for improving student literacy across the curriculum."

Literacy and assessment experts slated to present include:

- **Barbara R. Blackburn, Ph.D.**, author and assistant professor, department of curriculum and instruction, Richard W. Riley College of Education, Winthrop University. Blackburn, author of "Classroom Motivation From A to Z: How to Engage Your Students in Learning," has taught early childhood, elementary, middle and high school and served as an educational consultant for publishing companies.
- **Roland Good III, Ph.D.**, associate professor at the University of Oregon. Good teaches measurement, statistics and research design courses at the graduate level, and conducts research on "Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills" (DIBELS). He was co-principal investigator for the Early Childhood Research Institute on Measuring Growth and Development, and a member of the Secretary's Reading Leadership Academy, Assessment Committee.

- **Susan Hall, Ed.D.**, author and president, The 95 Percent Group, a consulting and professional development group that assists state departments of education, districts and schools in improving student reading outcomes. Hall is the author of "I've DIBEL'd - Now What?"
- **P. David Pearson, Ph.D.**, dean, graduate school of education and professor of language and literacy, society and culture, University of California at Berkeley. Pearson has conducted research in practice and policy in literacy instruction and assessment. He was formerly dean of the college of education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he co-directed the Center for the Study of Reading.
- **Quality Quinn**, author and international literacy consultant serving school districts, state departments of education, foundations, educational publishers and high-tech companies. Quinn is associated with the successful Texas Reading Initiative, which has resulted in minority students attaining some of the highest gains in reading improvement in the country. She is currently working with districts that are aggressively reconciling their curriculum to state standards and assessment to improve reading achievement for all students.
- **Timothy Rasinski, Ph.D.**, author and professor of literacy education, Kent State University. Rasinski's research focuses on children who find reading difficult, phonics and reading fluency instruction. A past editor of "The Reading Teacher," he is currently an editor for the "Journal of Literacy Research."
- **Malbert Smith III, Ph.D.**, president and co-founder, MetaMetrics. With A. Jackson Stenner, Smith co-founded MetaMetrics in 1984 and developed The Lexile Framework. Today they continue to lead the company as Lexile measures become the global standard for matching reader ability to text. Smith has published and presented numerous papers in the field of educational assessment and measurement, and is a frequent presenter at education conferences.
- **A. Jackson Stenner, Ph.D.**, chairman and chief executive officer, MetaMetrics, and co-developer of The Lexile Framework. Stenner has published widely on statistical and evaluation methodology and was a co-principal investigator on the development of The Quantile Framework® for Mathematics. Stenner is president of the Institute for Objective Measurement and a board member of the National Institute of Statistical Sciences.

The 2006 Lexile National Reading Conference builds on the success of the 2005 conference, praised by attendees for its wealth of information and dynamic and motivating

speakers. “Best conference I have attended in over 20 years of teaching,” said Mary Kay Longacre, a fifth-grade teacher at Chamberlain Elementary School, Goshen, Ind., and attendee of the 2005 conference.

Educators can save \$100 by registering before Feb. 28. Early bird registration is \$299 per person, and standard registration is \$399 per person. Georgia educators receive a registration discount of \$150. The conference will be held at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel, where special room rates are available for attendees.

To register or for more information, visit www.lexile.com/conference2006 or call 1-888-LEXILES.

About The Lexile Framework for Reading/The Quantile Framework for Mathematics

MetaMetrics Inc. developed The Lexile Framework for Reading and its companion scale, The Quantile Framework for Mathematics. The Lexile Framework provides a common scale for matching reader ability and text difficulty, enabling teachers and parents to choose materials that can help to improve student reading skills and monitor literacy across the curriculum and at home. Recognized as the most widely adopted reading measure in use today, Lexiles are part of reading and testing programs at the district, state and federal levels. More than 100,000 books and 80 million articles have Lexile measures, and all major standardized tests can report student reading scores in Lexiles. Launched in 2004, Quantiles[®] measure student mathematical achievement and concept/application solvability similar to the way Lexiles measure reading proficiency. The Quantile Framework represents a student’s ability to think mathematically in a taxonomy of math skills, concepts and applications. The Quantile strands—Geometry; Measurement; Numbers and Operations; Algebra/Patterns & Functions; and Data Analysis & Probability—integrate and align with the strands described by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM).

For more information, press only:

The Lexile Framework for Reading

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