“The mission of the International Reading Association is to promote reading by continuously advancing the quality of literacy instruction and research worldwide.”

**Reminders**

**2014 COUNCIL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

*Save the Date...July 10–13, 2014*
Location TBD

**IRA COUNCIL MENTOR PROGRAM**
If you are interested in being a part of the IRA Council Leaders’ Mentor program, please contact your Council Advisor for more information.

**INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY**
International Literacy Day will be celebrated on Monday, September 9, 2013. Let us know how your council will be celebrating this occasion!

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**CLA attendees are getting to feel “Leadership in Motion” before Steven Layne’s inspirational message!**

**NORTH AMERICAN COUNCILS**

What a way to kick off the 2013–2014 council year! The Council Leadership Academy offered attendees an in-depth look at effective council strategies, designed to promote a thriving organization. Council leaders walked away with the tools necessary to help them plan purposefully. Working side by side with IRA staff and IRA board members, participants were able to see IRA’s vision for future success and align their own council’s plan to match IRA’s.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

“It has been a wonderful weekend. We appreciate ideas that will help strengthen our state and local councils. The opportunity to collaborate with colleagues from other states was very helpful. Thank you for being so well-organized! We are informed and energized and inspired!”
—Linda McElroy, Oklahoma Reading Association

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“The Leadership Academy validated the views of the TRA leadership team and allowed us to discuss, reflect, and make plans to accompany IRA as they plan to meet the evolving membership needs. TRA will take the techniques learned at the academy and implement throughout the year as we begin a multi-year strategic planning process.”
—Tennessee Reading Association

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“The apprehension of a solo journey was immediately dissipated when the first glass was raised on Thursday. I have gained such valuable knowledge about the ‘nuts and bolts.’ So much to share when I return to Maryland—But more than that, I have new friends from across the nation.”
—Buffy Jordan, State of Maryland International Reading Association Council

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2013 CLA Spotlight

Jodi Hills, Author of *I Am Amazed*

*I Am Amazed* is your invitation to join the dance of life. The book is a tribute to the people around us...those who inspire, those we often overlook. With bold and bright illustrations, this story in verse is a stirring yet tender portrayal of life as a dance. Go ahead...step on the dance floor...join the rest of your courageous companions reaching for the amazing possibilities that lie within us all. Council Leadership Academy attendees were treated to their very own copy of Jodi’s book, *I am Amazed*.

SHARING RESOURCES

- *The Advantage* by Patrick Lencioni (2012)
- *The 4 Disciplines of Execution: Achieving Your Wildly Important Goals* by Chris McChesney, Sean Covey, and Jim Huling (2012)
- *Pep Talk from Kid President* (video)
- *Stay Focused* (video)
- *Pulling Together: Ten Rules for High Performance Teamwork* by John J. Murphy
- *One Word That Will Change Your Life* by Dan Britton, Jimmy Page, and Jon Gordon (2012)

NORTH AMERICAN COUNCILS (continued from page 1)

“This weekend has given me a new insight into the structure of an effective organization. Speakers have been motivating, challenging and knowledgeable about the needs of state organizations. I look forward to sharing and implementing strategies to make our council more effective.” —Vickie Hinkle, Oklahoma Reading Association

“Attending IRA Leadership has provided a vision for my role as Illinois’ Director of Membership Development. Hearing and conversing with the IRA leaders and other leaders from across the country and Canada has motivated, inspired, defined, challenged and stretched me as a new leader. I am more prepared for my position and am more prepared to facilitate the membership role-alike session at the IRC’s Leadership in just 10 days! I have many resources and tools to use as a result of my time here. It has been extremely valuable to my fellow attendees from IRC. We have had unending conversations which have refined and rejuvenated our plan of action for the coming year. Thanks for everything!” —Janell Hartman, Illinois Reading Council

"The Four Tenets of Success"

• Serve others
• Tell the truth
• Be thankful
• Hold on to hope

~ Steven Layne’s “The Success Story No One Else Can Write"