

INTERNATIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

Reading for All Learners Program Selected in Guyana, South America:

After a major evaluation of different reading programs using an evaluation instrument developed by the University of Oregon, the Reading for All Learners Program (RALP) was determined to be the most cost effective beginning reading program to address beginning reading instruction needs in Guyana. RALP is a project under the direction of Dr. Alan Hofmeister of the **Center for Persons with Disabilities (UT UCEDD)**. Guyana, after Haiti, is the most poverty impacted nation in the Caribbean and South America. The United Nations, the U.S. Department of State and the Inter-American Development Bank are making major investments in the rebuilding of Guyana, and addressing literacy is a high priority item. A recent survey reported that 90% of 14-25 year-olds were functionally illiterate, and there are virtually no teachers with higher than a sixth grade education in Guyana. Literacy efforts beginning with the improvement of reading instruction in early elementary grades is seen as the first step in rebuilding the educational and economic infrastructure. The RALP program is in the process of being installed in 700 first grade classrooms in Guyana, a country approximately the size of Idaho with 700,000 people. For more information, contact Dr. Hofmeister at hofa@cc.usu.edu.