



September 13, 2018

CONTACT

Cindy Russell, Executive Director
The Reading Center
507-288-5271 (w)
507-250-1284 (c)
crussell@theReadingCenter.org
www.TheReadingCenter.org

**READING CENTER BREAKS GROUND ON NEW
\$3.8 MILLION FACILITY
BENEFITTING STRUGGLING STUDENTS**

Everyone is invited to celebrate the groundbreaking of The Reading Center's new \$3.8 million facility to benefit struggling students with dyslexia.

Please join us for a short ceremony hosted by *Unleashed to Succeed* Capital Campaign co-chairs: local business man Joe Powers, Dr. Terri Edwards and Dr. Brooks Edwards.

The brief ceremony will begin at **3:30pm on Sunday, September 16th.**

**** Confirmed Guests include: Senator David Senjem, Senator Carla Nelson, Representative Nels Pierson, Representative Duane Sauke, Commissioner Sheila Kiscaden ****

We invite everyone to attend the groundbreaking at our new site: 2010 Scott Road NW, Rochester (near Costco). We will take photos and offer t-shirts to the first 50 attendees. The first 20 kids will get hardhats to take home.

The Reading Center embarked on its *Unleashed to Succeed* Capital Campaign in 2015 and is more than 75% of the way to fully fund the campaign which includes \$3.8 million

for the new building and \$500,000 to invest in growing our programs and services for students and adult trainees.

In 2017, The Reading Center was awarded \$1.5 million in state bonding funds and has received foundational support from Mayo Clinic, Otto Bremer Foundation and other strong support from foundations, corporations and individuals.

The Reading Center Executive Director, Cindy Russell, says **“A new, right-sized building is critical to enable The Reading Center to reach the state’s most challenged readers.”**

The Reading Center hopes to move into its new 10,000 square facility debt free in mid to late 2019.

Since its **founding, The Reading Center has served more than 10,000 students and 2,000 teachers directly.**

The Reading Center expansion will do much good for struggling readers in Minnesota.

- Dyslexia affects many. 1:5 people. That is 135,000 school aged children in Minnesota alone.
- The Reading Center has been successfully teaching students who struggle to learn to read for 67 years using evidence based strategies, like Orton-Gillingham.
- The expanded facility and technology investments will enable The Reading Center to expand its reach due to the technology. At present, more than 1/3 of its students are being served online.
- Over the past 5 years, The Reading Center students and trainees have come from 46 MN Counties. This expansion will enable them to reach more students outside Rochester and Olmsted County.
- Online tutoring is the fastest growing type of specialized tutoring we offer. And we offer our nationally recognized and accredited Orton-Gillingham Training program to teach adults the Orton-Gillingham approach online.

###