



THE READING LEAGUE
ADVANCING EVIDENCE IN PRACTICE

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For more information contact:
Toni Ann Walsh, Vice President – Marketing and Development
The Reading League
toni@thereadingleague.org

Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation Awards Grant to The Reading League

*The Reading League will scale up its training model to expand nationally with
\$4 million grant and \$5 million pledge*

(Syracuse, NY) The Reading League, a Central New York nonprofit organization that trains educators on evidence-based practices to improve reading instruction, has received a grant of \$4 million to expand its programs nationally. Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation has awarded the three-year grant, along with a \$5 million pledge for an endowment fund.

The Reading League will use the grant to expand its mission of increasing the awareness, understanding, and use of evidence-based reading instruction to improve literacy rates in the United States.

“This is a powerful vote of confidence in our mission,” states Dr. Maria Murray, founder, CEO, and Chief Academic Officer at The Reading League. “We are extremely grateful for Pleasant Rowland’s vision and dedication to helping teachers improve the way they teach reading. We have long admired her commitment to scientifically-based reading instruction.” The Reading League is creating a fund with the Central New York Community Foundation for management of this grant and other future gifts.

Pleasant Rowland, creator of American Girl, is a noted educator, business leader, and philanthropist whose career began as a primary-grade teacher. Her lifelong interest in teaching children to read grew from her classroom experience and ultimately led to her authorship of reading and language arts programs used widely for over 40 years in schools throughout the country. She states, “Reading is at the heart of all achievement. Without it, the American dream is out of reach. With it, anything is possible.”

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