

August 3, 1998

To: Community College Basic Skills Program Directors
Volunteer and Community Based Literacy Organization Directors

From: Mary Dunn Siedow, Director, NC Literacy Resource Center

Subject: International Literacy Day

International Literacy Day -- September 8 -- is fast approaching. NC Literacy Resource Center, NC Community College System and NC Literacy Association encourage you to conduct local observances that focus your community's attention on literacy issues and the work of your organization. We also encourage you to use International Literacy Day as an opportunity to work in partnership with other basic skills/literacy organizations in your community.

To assist you in planning International Literacy Day observances, we enclose the following:

- "North Carolina's Basic Skills / Literacy Programs" -- this new information sheet has figures from the 1996-97 program year. You are welcome to duplicate the sheet for use in your community.
- A copy of Governor Hunt's "Literacy Month" proclamation.
- NC LRC's "Directory of Basic Skills/Literacy Program Contacts" in community colleges, volunteer and community based organizations.
- NC LRC's "Literacy in North Carolina, 1998." In draft form, this publication can be an excellent resource for understanding literacy and for determining the extent of literacy issues in your city or county.
- "Literacy -- It's a Whole New World" -- the second packet of information from the National Institute for Literacy's public awareness campaign. Included are national information sheets on literacy-related issues.

All of these, except the NIFL packet, are being sent to newspapers around the state by the NC Press Association. As in previous years, the NC Press Association is encouraging newspapers to plan special Literacy Day articles. Contact your local newspaper soon to suggest ways to feature your accomplishments and those of others in your community. Help us follow the effectiveness of International Literacy Day observances by sending copies of publicity from your community to NC Literacy Resource Center.