

**June 30, 2021**



In this edition of NIFDI NEWS!

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- Direct Instruction Pioneer Jean Osborn Passes
- New Version of *Funnix Reading* Released!
- New Edition of Textbook Dedicated to Siegfried “Zig” Engelmann

If you have questions or need additional information you can reach us at 877.485.1973 or [info@nifdi.org](mailto:info@nifdi.org)

*Plan now to attend these in-person trainings...*

### **47th National Direct Instruction Institutes**

Direct Instruction Coaching—July 26-30, 2021

Presented by



Administrator Leadership Institute: Effective Implementation of DI for All Students—July 26-29, 2021

For assistance registering or questions, email [bwickman@nifdi.org](mailto:bwickman@nifdi.org) or call 541.556.3068  
*All local, state and CDC protocols will be observed.*



## ***Space Available—Attend NIFDI In-Person Institutes this July!***

Demand is high, but there is still space available in our two Direct Instruction Institutes. Both institutes include extensive resources that support the training. You will continue to find these resources useful once you return to your building. Each institute is \$825.00, which includes all materials, breakfast, and lunch each day. Be assured that all local, state, and CDC health-related protocols will be observed.

The institutes will be held at the Graduate Eugene Hotel. The Graduate is extending a special rate of \$124.00 room rate + 11.3% occupancy tax. This rate includes self-parking in their underground parking garage. Book online at [Graduate Eugene Hotel Booking Link - NIFDI 2021](#) or, if you wish to make your reservations by phone, call 844-888-4723 and reference Group: NIFDI Conference 2021. Guests will need to book into the block by Tuesday, July 6, 2021, in order to secure the discounted rate.

*Please contact us if you would like to schedule virtual or in-person preservice training on any of the Direct Instruction programs. Send an email to [info@nifdi.org](mailto:info@nifdi.org) for more information*

## Direct Instruction Pioneer Jean Osborn Passes



We are sorry to announce noted DI author and researcher Jean Osborn passed away at her home in Champaign, Illinois, on June 20 at the age of 91.

Jean began working with Siegfried “Zig” Engelmann at the University of Illinois in 1964. She worked with Zig, Carl Bereiter and a small team in the Bereiter-Engelmann preschool and developed what eventually became the DISTAR Language program. This was while raising 3 (eventually 4) children and pursuing a master’s degree in education at the U of I. Jean also coauthored several levels of Reading Mastery and the Corrective Reading Program. She wrote about her memories of the early days of DI for Zig’s memorial service in 2019. [Click here](#) to access her recollections.

Jean was a project manager for Project Follow Through and helped train many teachers, coaches and consultants. Many educators in the field credit Jean with giving them training and encouragement to pursue their chosen profession. She was a kind, compassionate person, who made those around her feel comfortable and confident in their abilities.

She went on to become a researcher at the U of I’s Center for the Study of Reading, later serving as the center’s associate director. She worked in Texas for then Governor George Bush and, when Bush became President, served on the advisory board for the National Institute for Literacy.

Her family and friends will miss her greatly. Jean’s full obituary can be [found here](#).

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## New Version of Funnix Reading Released!



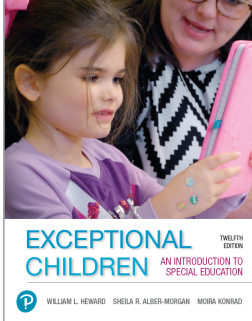
Twenty years after its initial release, a new version of *Funnix Beginning Reading* and *Funnix 2* have been released. The programs are now completely web-based, can support multiple students and provide additional practice as necessary. Of the new version, coauthor Owen Engelmann says, “With today’s technology, *Funnix* is accessible almost anywhere in the world, and to virtually every family and teacher/ instructor. Delivery is seamless, and the sound quality is much improved over our previous DVD format. It’s a great way to help students ‘catch up’ if they have fallen behind during the pandemic. It’s also a great way to give your preschooler an academic head start.”

Another feature of the very affordable program is the first 20 lessons of *Funnix Beginning Reading* are completely free. You don’t need to provide a credit card or subscribe until you reach lesson 21! To find out more about Funnix Reading, go to [www.funnix.com](http://www.funnix.com)

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## New Edition of Textbook Dedicated to Siegfried

## “Zig” Engelmann



Co-Authors Bill Heward, Sheila Alber-Morgan, and Moira Konrad have dedicated the 12<sup>th</sup> Edition of *Exceptional Children: An Introduction to Special Education*, to Zig Engelmann. In their dedication, the authors write, “Countless children and adults owe their literacy to Engelmann. He dedicated his life to developing and refining Direct Instruction (DI), a powerful teaching approach that combines logical analysis and sequencing of skills, clear communication, high rates of student engagement, and mastery learning.”

Bill shared a file with the dedication and the DI content with us. To view it, [click here](#). The book is available from Pearson in print and e-book format. The e-book format also allows access to some videos of DI lessons. [Click here](#) to go to the Pearson website.

### The National Institute for Direct Instruction

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**Contact Us Today**



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