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In this edition of NIFDI NEWS!

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If you have questions or need additional information, you can reach us at 877.485.1973 or info@nifdi.org.

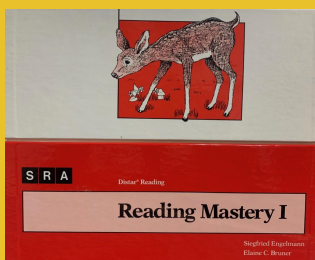
National Direct Instruction Conference Opening Video Available!

The 49th National Direct Instruction Conference and Institutes was held in Eugene, Oregon, July 25-29. At the opening, IDEA Travis Academy was recognized as the recipient of the Wesley Becker Excellent School Award. NIFDI Implementation Manager Kris Althoff told the 250 attendees about the dramatic turnaround in student performance at Travis. Due in part to the use of DI, Travis now has most students performing at or above grade level and has been removed from the Texas Education Agency watch list.

After the Travis presentation, Doug Carnine presented keynote speaker John Wills Lloyd with the Direct Instruction Hall of Fame Award. Doug highlighted John's longtime association with Direct Instruction. John studied under Barbara Bateman and Siegfried Engelmann in the 1970s and spent most of his career working in the area of learning disabilities. His engaging keynote compared instructional design with making biscuits. His main point was you need to know far more than just the ingredient list to come out with a quality instructional program. You need to know how much and when to add each component, and many other factors.

[Click here](#) to view the opening. Note this link will also take you to an archive of the past 13 years of conference keynotes.

DI Through the Years-40 Year Anniversary of Reading Mastery Publication



A celebration recognizing the 40th anniversary of the release of Reading Mastery took place at the National DI Conference. In 1983, SRA (now McGraw-Hill Education) published the first major revision of DISTAR Reading Levels I-III and the new publication of Reading Mastery Levels IV-VI. With a complete 6-level series, SRA was able to submit the programs for adoption to many state departments of education. The celebration event was attended by many authors of Reading Mastery. Original

program author Elaine "Cookie" Bruner and her son Dan sent a greeting to the attendees. [Click here](#) to view their informative and entertaining message.

DI Focus of Recent Podcasts

Teachers Change Lives is an Australia-based podcast. Two recent releases featured Direct Instruction. The first one is about THRIVE Community School, a new charter school in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Co-founders Amy Chacon and Sean Duncan sat down with interviewer Mrs. Angel and talked about their journey from being classroom teachers to having their own school. It is an interesting story, and shows their dedication to giving students with education they deserve. [Click here](#) to listen to the 40-minute podcast.



The second podcast is an interview with NIFDI President Kurt Engelmann. Kurt tells about his education from the elementary to his Ph. D. in Geography. He then details his involvement in writing stories for the early Direct Instruction programs and gaining teaching experience as a tutor at the Engelmann-Becker Corporation. Kurt gives his insights into Project Follow Through and its impact, and his goal of seeing a fully implemented Direct Instruction school. [Click here](#) to listen to the 40 minute podcast

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