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Outstanding School Reading Programs Chosen

The International Reading Association has recognized 17 elementary schools for their outstanding reading programs. This year's winners come from schools in Anchorage, Alaska, Tucson, Arizona, San Bernardino, Calif., Colorado Springs, Colo., Palmetto, Fla., Avondale Estates, Ga., Mechanicsville, Md., Knob Noster, Mo., North Brunswick, N.J., Las Cruces, N.M., Rye, N.Y., Raleigh, N.C., Minot, N.D., Lebanon, Oreg., Hartsville, S.C., Three Lakes, Wis., and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Here are some examples of the innovative programs that were recognized:

- Cascades Elementary School in Lebanon, Oregon, uses television to get its message across to parents and the community. To complement its Chapter 1 reading program, the school district produces a local access cable show called "Read to Someone You Know." With help from TCI Cable Company, the district is able to air the show two evenings a week. "The Chapter 1 program emphasizes parent involvement and community outreach," said teacher Cindy Butherus, who started the project. "Kids can turn the TV on and even if their parents can't read to them, they can have somebody read to them."

- Hillside - University Demonstration School in San Bernardino, California, publishes a monthly newsletter of students' writing and honors "Writers of the Month."

- At Knob Noster Elementary School in Knob Noster, Missouri, "Students' writings are published on the walls, in the halls, and in the

classrooms," according to principal Dan Lowry.

- The Students and Teachers Are Reading (STAR) program at East Millbrook Middle School in Raleigh, North Carolina, gives students time to read during the busy school day. Five minutes from each of six class periods are contributed to STAR, allowing for thirty minutes of daily reading. During this time, students can read, write, or discuss books.

The objectives of the Exemplary Reading Program Awards are to improve literacy in our society, recognize excellence at the school level, encourage outstanding programs in reading, publicize these programs and their successes, and inform educators, parents, and other interested groups. Winners are reviewed and chosen by the Association's Exemplary Reading Program Award Committee.

The International Reading Association is a 94,000-member, nonprofit professional organization dedicated to improving reading instruction and promoting literacy worldwide.