



# CALL FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS

for the  
**MSC-IRA RESEARCH IN READING AWARD**  
Guidelines for the 2008 Award Year

You are invited to share your research with the rest of the SHOW-ME State. Guidelines and directions to apply for the **MSC-IRA Research in Reading Award** are posted below. The MSC-IRA Research in Reading Award is awarded annually to the member who designs and carries out research focused on reading, writing, spelling or any other aspect of literacy.

**Eligible Projects:**

All applicants must be members of the Missouri State Reading Council.

Studies may be undertaken using various research approaches or methods, including teacher-research or action research.

Studies conducted in conjunction with advanced degrees (Masters, Specialist, or Doctorate) are eligible

Projects developing new programs or instructional materials are **not** eligible.

**Deadline:**

Applications must be postmarked by September 12, 2008. Late entries will be accepted and held for the 2009 MSC-IRA Research in Reading Award.

**Mail Application to:**

Dr. Willie Edwards  
Missouri Southern State University  
Department of Teacher Education  
3950 East Newman Road  
Joplin, MO 64801  
edwards-w@mssu.edu

**Preparing Your Application for Submission:**

Applications should include a cover sheet with title, name, address, telephone number, email address, and local council. Description of your research project should be single-spaced and not exceed five typed pages. The description must include:

- 1) Approximately 250-word abstract describing the project;
- 2) Topic, research questions or problems studied;
- 3) Rationale for the study and relationship to existing body of research or previous findings;
- 4) Methodology (action research, case study, survey, etc.);
- 5) Grade levels or level focused on by study;
- 6) Results of study; and
- 7) Implications of study on practice or research; (describe what populations will benefit.

**Review Procedures:**

Applications will be reviewed by the members of the *MSC-IRA Committee on Studies and Research in Reading*. Evaluation of proposals are conducted as a blind-review. The winner will be notified no later than the last week of September by e-mail. The winning researcher(s) will be recognized for his or her work during one of the general conference meeting at the October 2-4 2008 MSC-IRA Fall Conference in Springfield, MO.

Your research proposal will be evaluated on the following criteria:

Significance of topic and research questions .....	4
Rationale for research .....	4
Adequacy of methods .....	5
Significance of project impact .....	4
Clarity and specificity .....	3

All areas will be ranked from 1 (low) to 5 (high) and multiplied by the weights above.

**Questions?**

Please contact Dr. Willie Edwards at 417-625-9626 or [edwards-w@mssu.edu](mailto:edwards-w@mssu.edu) if you have any questions or need technical assistance in preparing your application.