



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**National Academy of Education Launches
New Adolescent Literacy Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Program**

WASHINGTON, DC — A new pre-doctoral fellowship program is being established to support doctoral research focused on adolescent literacy. The goal of this program, launched with generous support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, is to strengthen and stimulate adolescent literacy education by infusing the field with highly talented, well-trained, and motivated researchers and teacher educators.

The Adolescent Literacy Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Program will encourage more scholars in schools of education and related disciplines to conduct dissertation research focused on improving literacy outcomes for middle and secondary students. Fellows will each receive a stipend of \$25,000, to be disbursed over a period of up to two years, to support them in finalizing their dissertation proposal, designing and conducting rigorous research, analyzing their data, and writing up their dissertation research results. Twenty fellows will be accepted for the two-year fellowships.

Fellowship applications and further information will be available after May 15 on the Academy's website, www.naeducation.org, and applications will be accepted through December 1, 2007. Information is also available by calling (202) 334-2341.

"The proposed initiative exemplifies the goals of the Carnegie Corporation's *Advancing Literacy* program by supporting young doctoral students to pursue the field of adolescent literacy", said Andrés Henríquez, Program Officer and Manager of Carnegie's Adolescent Literacy projects.

Reading proficiency is a key to academic success across all classroom subject areas. However, attending to students' literacy development remains a critical challenge, especially after the primary grades. According to the most recent data from the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP), only about a third of 8th and 12th graders read at a proficient level and critical gaps remain in our understanding of how to improve education through research focused on middle/secondary school literacy.

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“This new professional development program will build on the success of the NAEd/Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowship Program which has successfully enhanced the careers of outstanding education researchers for the past 20 years,” explained Lorrie A. Shepard, President, National Academy of Education, and Dean, School of Education, University of Colorado at Boulder. “The program is also an important extension of the 2005 NAEd study of teacher preparation and adolescent literacy: *Knowledge to Support the Teaching of Reading: Preparing Teachers for a Changing World.*”

Fellows will receive numerous opportunities to develop informal mentoring relationships with leaders in the field. In addition to focusing on completing their dissertation, fellows will participate in ongoing training activities to interact with and learn from leading adolescent literacy researchers, and in activities that promote building a community of emerging scholars.

“Improving adolescents’ literacy skills will require building a robust cadre of scholars focused on these issues. Junior scholars supported by these new funds and working with experienced mentors will take work on adolescent literacy to a new and higher level,” explained Catherine Snow, Henry Lee Shattuck Professor of Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and Chair of the pre-doctoral fellowship program’s oversight committee.

The National Academy of Education (NAEd) advances the highest quality education research and its use in policy formulation and practice. Founded in 1965, the Academy membership includes up to 200 U.S. members and up to 25 foreign associates who are elected on the basis of outstanding scholarship or contributions to education. For more information, call (202) 334-2341 or email gwhite@naeducation.org.

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