

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

FACULTY PRESENTATION AT IOWA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
“ISD LITERACY, ACCELERATED READER, POWER UP PROGRAMS”

Action Requested: Receive the presentation.

Executive Summary: Hearing impairments can significantly delay language and literacy skill development in children. These children often need intensive individualized instruction to develop vital literacy skills. The Accelerated Reader™ and Power Up!™ programs are used in general education classrooms with great success and support for students. These instructional tools are now used at the Iowa School for the Deaf with appropriate modifications for students who have language delays.

Rhonda Matthew, Susan Trucano, and Elizabeth Gates will share details of the ISD literacy development program. ISD students will share their perspective of the impact that the Power Up!™ and Accelerated Reader™ programs have had on their motivation to read and on their overall achievement. The presentation will include a brief description of the components of ISD’s literacy instructional program, how the program is implemented, the modifications that are made for students who are deaf, and how students have experienced achievement gains.

Ms. Matthew, who has worked at ISD for 25 years, is the elementary/middle school reading teacher; she has a B.S. in elementary education and an M.A. in deaf education. Ms. Trucano has a B.A. in anthropology, technology, and social change; a B.S. in secondary education with a field endorsement in social studies; a subject endorsement in hearing impaired (K-12); a secondary endorsement in English (K-12); and an M.Ed. with emphasis in English as an international language. She serves as the high school reading specialist and coordinates the Accelerated Reader™ program at the high school. Ms. Gates, who has worked at ISD since 1991, has an A.A. in education. She serves as facilitator of the Accelerated Reader™ program between the schools and the dorm. Ms. Gates, a 2004 recipient of the Board of Regents staff excellence award, supervises the Teen Center and works with the Workplace Readiness Program.