

INTERNATIONAL



Reading Association

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Asociación Internacional de Lectura ● Association Internationale pour la Lecture

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An Incorporated Nonprofit
Professional Organization

January 7, 2005

Judith A. Rice, Director
Civil Air Patrol Deputy Director Aerospace Education
National Conference on Aviation and Space Education
105 South Hansell Street, Building 714
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6332

Dear Ms. Rice:

To become fully literate in today's world, the International Reading Association asserts that students must develop the critical literacies essential to effective information use. As information demands expand in the fields of math and science, students need higher levels of literacy to understand the vast amount of knowledge available to them, and to fuel their imaginations as they help create the world of the future.

The International Reading Association believes that professional development is fundamental to support students in developing the math and science literacy they will require. Instruction that builds students' skills and desire to read increasingly complex materials will enable them to become competent, critical thinkers. Expert teachers, skilled in the effective use of a wide range of strategies for teaching and learning across the curriculum, are the key in making a difference in students' achievement and motivation to learn.

We therefore endorse the 39th National Conference on Aviation and Space Education (NCASE), which will provide educators the opportunity to focus on professional development in meeting national standards in math and science education and further the goals of No Child Left Behind.

Sincerely,

Alan E. Farstrup
Executive Director

AEF:mec