This summer, for the first time, we will offer a Teacher Reading Academy designed especially for teachers of struggling readers, grades 4 - 12. Called the Academy for Special Educators, this four-day workshop will bring participants the most up-to-date research-based information about reading, with all activities and discussions designed especially to help teachers in their classrooms.

This Teacher Reading Academy will take place in Staunton, Virginia, at the Stonewall Jackson Conference Center. Sessions will include the stages of reading development with case studies of struggling readers at each stage and strategies that will help in the classroom. Instructors have teaching backgrounds in special education and reading. Guest lecturers for this event include Dr. Sharon Green, co-author of Small Group Reading Instruction: A Differentiated Teaching Model for Intermediate Readers, Grades 3 - 8, and Dr. J. Thomas Gill, nationally recognized teacher educator and intervention specialist from West Chester University in Pennsylvania.

Continental breakfast, a box lunch, and afternoon snack will be served to the 100 teachers who enroll. Special hotel rates are available to those who need to stay overnight. Books and materials are included with registration. The academy is FREE, provided by the state’s Reading First grant and carries 30 contact hours.

Enrollment for this event opens on April 2, 2007 through the Reading First in Virginia Website http://www.readingfirst.virginia.edu. Teachers are advised to create an account on the Website (see Log in on the front page) to be ready for the Website to open for enrollment.

The Reading First in Virginia professional development team looks forward to working with grades 4-12 special education teachers this summer. If you have questions regarding the event, please see www.readingfirst.virginia.edu.