September 6, 2000

Dear Colleague:

Last year, in partnership with Columbus Public Schools, Ohio State and other local businesses joined a literacy program called ColumbusReads, which is part of OhioReads at the state level and AmericaReads at the national level. ColumbusReads is a literacy initiative aimed at improving the reading skills of kindergartners to help prepare them for first grade. The program is designed to instill a joy and a facility for reading that will eventually enable them to pass the reading portion of Ohio’s fourth-grade proficiency test. More than 200 Ohio State faculty, staff, and administrative volunteers participated in this program and provided more than 1,600 hours of tutoring and mentoring to over 100 kindergarten students at two local schools, Hubbard Elementary and East Linden Elementary.

This year, I am very pleased that Ohio State is continuing its pledge of service to ColumbusReads at Hubbard and East Linden. I firmly support and endorse ColumbusReads, and I invite you to join this vital effort as a volunteer by committing two hours of your time each week. I greatly appreciate that you will consider taking on this important role as a representative of Ohio State.

ColumbusReads tutors made a noticeable impact on the students they mentored last year as the students made strong progress in their reading and reading-readiness skills. ColumbusReads has also gained local and even national recognition. At the end of the 1999-2000 school year, ColumbusReads was recognized by Ohio’s Education Partnership with a BEST Practice Award and also received the NSPRA 2000 Gold Medallion Award from The National School Public Relations Association, both impressive honors.

I hope you will accept my invitation to join this worthwhile effort and take the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of youngsters as they set out on their educational path. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the lead coordinator assigned to your area or Tina Love, coordinator for Ohio State’s ColumbusReads and director for Student Affairs Projects, at 292-9334. Further information regarding lead coordinators, the program, and a sign-up form are available online on Ohio State’s ColumbusReads’ website at http://www.osu.edu/ColumbusReads.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

William E. Kirwan
President
21150.00000

Ihnat, Bertha Luise
Library Associate I
University Libraries
109 Library Book Depository
2700 Kenny Rd
Columbus OH 43210