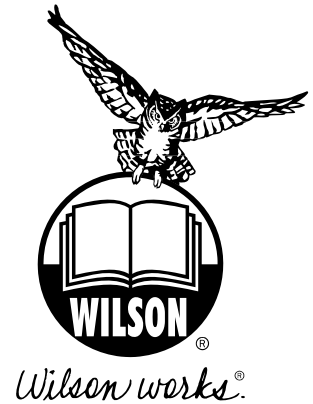


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Rochester School Teacher Receives National Recognition, Scholarship**

Wilson Language Training<sup>®</sup>, developer and publisher of the researched-based Wilson Reading System<sup>®</sup> (WRS), has named Marla Kleinman of Rochester, NY, as recipient of the **2009 Sharon Parks Memorial Scholarship** for Wilson Level II training. The annual Sharon Parks Memorial Scholarship is a national award presented to one teacher who demonstrates dedication to the Wilson mission of helping students become fluent, independent readers. It was created in memory of Sharon Parks, an enthusiastic, conscientious, and concerned Wilson trainer who passed away suddenly in 1996. Recipients receive a scholarship to further their knowledge in delivering multisensory, structured reading instruction with the Wilson program.

Since 1997, teachers from all over the United States and Canada have been nominated for the award, which is presented at Wilson's Annual Conference. The 2009 conference was held at Wilson Language Training Center in Oxford, MA, June 4-6. Teachers from 16 states attended the gathering.

This year's honoree, Marla Kleinman, is Special Education Coordinator at the Genesee Community Charter School located on the campus of the Rochester Museum and Science Center. Marla's dedication, experience, and passion for education led Wilson Trainer Jeanne Fitzgerald to nominate her for this scholarship. Jeanne considers Marla to be a model Wilson representative because she is knowledgeable, believes in fidelity to the program, and is committed to helping students succeed with reading.

"Marla describes herself as fiery, and she *is*," says Jeanne. "She uses that energy to speak for kids. She is particularly passionate about helping kids with special needs."

Today, Marla teaches the Wilson Reading System at the Genesee Community Charter School. She often promotes Wilson programs, and her enthusiasm has rubbed off on her colleagues, who also hope to become certified. Additionally, Marla independently tutors students weekday afternoons and is an educational consultant for the Learning Disabilities Association where she helps parents of learning-disabled children understand the programs that their children need.

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Prior to her current classroom position, Marla worked as a Resource Room Teacher and Special Education Coordinator in a charter school where she eventually helped create its special education program. She also served as the Special Education Coordinator for the Cobblestone School in Rochester.

Marla received her Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and Psychology at the University at Buffalo. She earned her Master of Arts and teacher certification in Special Education at the University of Rochester.

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### ***About Wilson Language Training***

Wilson Language Training is an Oxford, MA-based provider of professional development and research-based reading and spelling curricula for all ages. Wilson programs are implemented in public schools, private schools and clinics, adult education settings, and literacy organizations across the country. For more information, call 800.899.8454 or visit the web site at [www.wilsonlanguage.com](http://www.wilsonlanguage.com)



\* Barbara and Ed Wilson, co-founders, and Trainer Jeanne Fitzgerald celebrate Marla Kleinman's scholarship award.

\*From left to right: Ed Wilson, Jeanne Fitzgerald, Marla Kleinman, and Barbara Wilson.