

To: Literacy Coalition of Onondaga County

100% Literacy through 100% Community Engagement

Date: August 18, 2008

From: John Eberle, Central New York Community Foundation; Frank Lazarski,
United Way of Central New York
Kathy Byrnes, Family Literacy Alliance of Greater Syracuse

Re: Executive Director

Virginia B. Carmody has been named the first Executive Director of the Literacy Coalition of Onondaga County. Ms. Carmody brings new excitement and vision, as well as comprehensive understanding of the needs of Central New York. Her extensive experience in the public sector, along with her collaborative, solution-oriented leadership make her ideally suited for her new role. Virginia or "Ginny" as most people know her, is a longtime resident of Syracuse, and is currently the District Director in the Syracuse Office of U.S. Congressman James Walsh where she oversees all day-to-day operations and serves as the key liaison to the Central New York community. Ms. Carmody holds a Masters in Public Administration from American University and a New York State teaching license. She brings a personal passion for reading and family literacy. We're very pleased to report that she will begin leading this initiative by mid September, 2008.

The coalition is funded by the Central New York Community Foundation as part of its multi-year commitment to improving literacy in Onondaga County. The United Way of Central New York will house the coalition and serve as its fiscal sponsor. Members of the Literacy Coalition have engaged over 200 community members in extensive planning sessions where collectively they established community indicators and priority recommendations for achieving a shared vision of "100% Literacy through 100% Community Engagement." With the support of the Mayor and County Executive a leadership council has been assembled from among key community partners in business, local school districts, institutions of higher education, literacy providers, concerned citizens and the faith community. The new executive director will convene members of our community to form action teams that develop baseline measures, targets and collaborative strategies to raise literacy levels across our community.