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*For Immediate Release*

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## **ST. THOMAS PROFESSOR PRESENTS AT CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING** *Presentation focuses on issues for students learning to read*

**(SPARKILL, NY – January 29, 2009)** - Dr. Michael Shaw, Professor of Education at St. Thomas Aquinas College will present at a congressional briefing regarding National Council of Teachers of English's new book, *What Research REALLY Says About Teaching and Learning to Read*. The briefing will take place Tuesday, February 3, 2009 in Washington, D.C.

This research collection examines "official" views of the teaching and learning of reading and challenges the assumptions on which the views are based. Together, the authors synthesize a broad range of research concerning the nature of reading, how it is learned, and its development across the grades.

Dr. Shaw will present on his chapter entitled, "Reaching and Teaching Readers who Struggle: Instruction that Increases Motivation and Achievement."

Each year, Dr. Shaw directs a summer literacy clinic at the College for students, grades 1-8, who struggle in reading. The program encourages confidence in the students and prepares them for their fall coursework. "I used many STAC teaching experiences, especially directing our summer literacy clinic, to inform my findings," said Shaw.

Recognizing that classrooms are becoming more ethnically, racially, and linguistically diverse, the book addresses the needs of English Language Learners and of readers who struggle. The book also addresses the reading instruction of all students, pre-K through adolescence. The contributors offer a research-based collection of effective reading practices, highlight the transformative power of informed professional development, and celebrate school success stories.

Panelists and researches include leaders in Literacy Education from across the nation. "Our goal is to present a much broader research base to guide educational reform than was used to develop NCLB and to make policy recommendations for the new Congress and administration," said Shaw.

Dr. Shaw received a bachelors degree in Psychology from the State University of New York at Binghamton, a Master of Science degree in Communication Arts from the College of New Rochelle and a Ph.D. in Language, Literacy and Learning from Fordham University. In addition to his course work, he also organizes the College's annual Literacy Extravaganza featuring nationally recognized keynote speakers and workshops for educators, reading specialists, librarians, and teacher education students.

### **MORE ABOUT ST. THOMAS**

The College's 2,700 full and part time students can choose from 97 different majors, minors, specializations, and dual degree programs across five divisions: The Humanities; Business Administration; Social Sciences; Natural Sciences & Mathematics; and Teacher Education or are enrolled in one of our graduate programs. St. Thomas has expanded its offerings to include: a Master of Science in Education with specializations in Literacy, Special Education, and Educational Leadership, a Post Masters Certificate program in Education, a Master of Science in Teaching, a Master of Business Administration program, a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Science in Education, and an Associate of Arts and an Associate of Science degree, the latter two offered at the West Point Military Academy. For more information on the College visit [www.stac.edu](http://www.stac.edu).