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## **Promoting Thinking & Learning Skills for the 21st Century**

Holly Area Schools Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Noni Miller  
World renowned Cognitive Psychologist, Professor Reuven Feuerstein

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**Chicago, Illinois, June 30, 2009** – On July 27<sup>th</sup>, Holly, Michigan’s Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Noni Miller will introduce the keynote given by world renowned cognitive psychologist and children’s advocate, Reuven Feuerstein. Feuerstein who is scheduled to open the international Renewal institute’s Critical Thinking Seminars – “Learn2enablelearning”- will video lecture live on the importance of promoting thinking skills in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Dr. Miller, will begin by introducing Dr. Feuerstein. She will share the development of what is now called the “Holly Project.” Beginning last April 2008, Dr. Miller and Director of Instruction, Kaye Thorsby, attended an awareness day held by iRi and Oakland Schools which feature Dr. Feuerstein and colleagues. It was with this that Dr. Miller stated “*Every student deserves this program!*” She now has begun to make this happen.

In the summer of 2008, six, seventh and eighth grade math teachers from the Holly District began preparation in Feuerstein’s middle school Instrumental Enrichment Program. Dr. Miller, Dr. Thorsby and the school principals foresaw the program helping as students who were showing difficulties in the area of math as measured on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) test. This spring (2009), the Holly District also began the implementation of Feuerstein’s early childhood intervention program for approximately 600 students in kindergarten and first grade. It is Miller’s intention to utilize this version as an alternative means to newly formulated Response to Intervention (RTI or RtI).

Miller will not only introduce Dr. Feuerstein, but will also share information with attendees on the “Holly Project”, and the implications behind the project. Miller will share the meaningful impact which Feuerstein’s theories and programs have had on her schools, teachers and students while sharing the ‘need’ to expand the repertoire of thinking skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> century thinker and learner.

Dr. Feuerstein’s keynote to school leaders, teachers, parents and other helping professionals will engage them to learn best practices for changing the structures of students’ minds, to understand why intentional development of cognitive abilities is especially critical for students in the 21st century, and discover the use of Mediated Learning Experience (MLE) in a classroom or clinical setting in order to promote students' thinking abilities.

**Feuerstein’s presentation which begins at 8:30 am, July 27 at the MEC in Troy, MI.** All courses that day will begin after the video lecture. For more information on this program, please contact iRi conference staff members' toll free at 877.474. 4900 or 847.835.4206.