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CONTACTS: Azure Collier / Fitchburg State College / (978) 665-4694 / acollier@fsc.edu
Stuart Pologe / Words That Cook, LLC / (774) 885-2000 / stuart@wordsthatcook.org

NEW GRADUATE-LEVEL LITERACY EDUCATION COURSE ANNOUNCED

Fitchburg/Natick, MA – The Fitchburg State College Center for Professional Studies announces the release of a new graduate credit distance education literacy course in partnership with Words That Cook, LLC, a Natick-based family literacy and educational media company.

A Foundation for Literacy: Reading Aloud, Storytelling & Writing teaches ways of fostering children's literacy development at early childhood, elementary and middle school levels. In a distinct and contemporary approach, students are guided through the course by not only a textbook, but also by expert audio files, Internet resources and award-winning instructional DVDs. Assignments are completed with one or more children, and there are no prerequisites. Instructors are always accessible, and students wishing to take this course do not need to be actively enrolled in degree programs.

This evidence- and research-based professional development course will empower teachers, administrators, librarians and others as they gain new strategies for using stories, literature, multisensory activities and discussion to create lifelong readers and writers. Students can take this course at home at their convenience and choose their age group focus as they complete assignments doing practical and interactive work with children.

The Center for Professional Studies, which provides development opportunities for educators, now offers the course for three graduate credits. Other versions of the course are available for undergraduate or professional development credits. With the three different versions of the course, the Center for Professional Studies and Words That Cook, LLC hope to provide meaningful and relevant options for educators and administrators who are pursuing, renewing or upgrading the level of their certification or licensure. Since all versions of the course are offered as distance education, students and professionals nationwide are eligible to enroll.

“The graduate edition of *A Foundation for Literacy* offers a multifaceted approach to literacy-building in the classroom and beyond, while also providing a valuable opportunity for educators to advance their careers through Master’s degree-level coursework,” says Susan Minichiello, Director of Course Development for Words That Cook.

For more information and special offers, visit www.wordsthatcook.org. Course registration is ongoing, with new sections beginning on the first of each month.

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