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press@reading.org

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION FROM INTERNATIONAL LITERACY ASSOCIATION

NEWARK, Del. (May 1, 2023) — The International Literacy Association (ILA) announced today that Sam Houston State University (SHSU) has become the latest recipient of ILA National Recognition—a seal of approval reserved for colleges and universities that exemplify the best in teacher preparation for literacy professionals.

National Recognition is a prestigious program designed to set institutions of higher learning apart. A university that has received National Recognition has undergone a rigorous review process to determine if it aligns with ILA's *Standards for the Preparation of Literacy Professionals*, high benchmarks used to determine outstanding licensure, certificate, and endorsement programs.

Specifically, it is SHSU's master's program in reading and language arts, with a reading specialist certification, that has earned the honor, adding the program to a list of recipients that includes Loyola University Maryland, McDaniel College, Notre Dame College, Salisbury University, and The University of Texas at Permian Basin.

"We are proud to offer our candidates a high-quality, ILA nationally recognized program that builds and maintains a community of Bearkat literacy leaders who *together* positively impact and engage with literacy learning at all levels," said Patricia Gonzales Durham, associate professor at SHSU and the graduate program coordinator of the master's program.

The university will now be invited to move into a second phase of the review process that could potentially lead to ILA National Recognition With Distinction, the top honor in the National Recognition program, which signifies a school that *exceeds* ILA's rigorous standards. Universities that have achieved the distinction honor include Grambling State University, University of North Georgia, The University of Texas at San Antonio, and West Virginia University.

For more information on ILA's National Recognition program, visit literacyworldwide.org/natrec.

About the International Literacy Association

The International Literacy Association (ILA) is a professional membership organization of literacy educators, researchers and experts spanning 112 countries. For more than 65 years, ILA has set the standard for how literacy is defined, taught and evaluated, connecting research and practice to improve the quality of literacy learning across the globe. Through its *Standards for the Preparation of Literacy Professionals*, ILA provides an evidence-based benchmark for the development and evaluation of literacy professional preparation programs. ILA collaborates with partners across the world to develop, gather and disseminate high-quality resources, which include three peer-reviewed and edited journals—The Reading Teacher, Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy and Reading Research Quarterly. Learn more at literacyworldwide.org.

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