

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE INTERNATIONAL LITERACY ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES 2016 HONOREES FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN LITERACY INSTRUCTION AND RESEARCH

NEWARK, Del. (July 19, 2016) — Recipients of the 2016 International Literacy Association (ILA) Awards for outstanding achievements in literacy instruction and research were honored during the ILA 2016 Conference & Exhibits in Boston, Mass., on July 10. Hosted by Douglas Fisher, incoming vice president of the ILA Board of Directors, and Nancy Frey from San Diego State University, the annual ILA Awards recognize ILA's network of members, councils and affiliates who have done remarkable work to advance the field of literacy in their schools and communities.

"The ILA Awards celebrate and honor literacy educators, researchers and schools whose work to advance the field of literacy is exemplary," said Marcie Craig Post, executive director of ILA. "It's these literacy leaders who are helping to change the world one child and one school at a time. Their dedication to literacy inspires us all."

During the ceremony, ILA also recognized its first class of **30 Under 30** honorees, several of whom traveled from around the world to attend the event. The [2015 30 Under 30 honorees](#) represent the next generation of literacy leaders from around the world who are already making a difference in literacy and leading the charge in advancing literacy for all.

Award highlights:

- The **Special Service Award**, given for unusual and distinguished service to ILA, was awarded to **Lesley M. Morrow** of Scotch Plains, NJ. Dr. Morrow served as President of ILA's Board from 2003–2004. She has worked in the field of education as a classroom teacher, professor of literacy, literacy specialist and researcher throughout her career.
- **Lori Helman**, associate professor of literacy education in the department of curriculum instruction at the University of Minnesota, was recognized as the **Jerry Johns Outstanding Teacher Educator in Reading**. This award is given to an outstanding college or university teacher of reading methods and reading-related courses. Dr. Helman's work as a teacher, teacher advisor, professor and author has helped teachers change their instructional practice and make a genuine difference in reading education.
- The **Technology and Literacy Award**, recognizing K–12 educators who are making an innovative contribution through the use of technology in education, was awarded to **Sara Hamerla**, ELL Coach in Framingham (Mass.) Public Schools, and **Kaity Kao**, Head of English at the Taipei American School. Dr. Hamerla was recognized for her work *Academic Conversations Promote Literacy for ELLs*, while Ms. Kao was recognized for *Using Technology to Teach Literacy to the Advanced Student*.

- **Julie Learned** received the **Outstanding Dissertation of the Year** award, which is given for an exceptional dissertation completed in the field of reading or literacy. Dr. Learned's dissertation, completed at the University at Albany, SUNY, explores the role of social, institutional and instructional contexts in the literacy learning of young people. Her research interests include youth and adolescent literacy and equity and access in literacy education.
- The **William S. Gray Citation of Merit Award**, recognizing an educator for his or her outstanding contributions to the field of reading, was awarded to **Douglas Fisher**, professor of educational leadership at San Diego State University, teacher leader at Health Sciences High & Middle College, and member of the California Reading Hall of Fame. Mr. Fisher's research and work has focused on school improvement, especially in the area of quality instruction.
- The **Exemplary Reading Program Award** was presented to four schools for outstanding reading and language arts programs at all grade levels. In addition, six ILA state councils received the **Advocacy Award** for their demonstrated efforts to impact educational policy and legislation through effective advocacy at the local, state/provincial and/or national levels.

For a full list of award recipients, visit [Literacy Daily](#). Additional information on ILA's awards can be found [here](#).

ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL LITERACY ASSOCIATION

The International Literacy Association (ILA) is a global advocacy and membership organization dedicated to advancing literacy for all through its network of more than 300,000 literacy educators, researchers and experts across 75 countries. With 60 years of experience in the field, ILA believes in the transformative power of literacy to create more successful societies, healthy communities and prosperous economies. ILA collaborates with partners across the world to develop, gather and disseminate high-quality resources, best practices and cutting-edge research to empower educators, inspire students and inform policymakers. The International Literacy Association publishes several peer-reviewed journals, including *The Reading Teacher*, *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy* and *Reading Research Quarterly*. For more information, visit literacyworldwide.org.

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