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INTERNATIONAL LITERACY ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES WINNER OF INAUGURAL CORWIN LITERACY LEADER AWARD, OTHERS AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ORLANDO, Fla. (July 17, 2017) — The International Literacy Association (ILA) presented the inaugural **Corwin Literacy Leader Award** to David Wilkie, principal of McVey Elementary School in Newark, Del., this weekend at the ILA 2017 Conference & Exhibits in Orlando, Fla. The award honors a district or school administrative literacy leader who has worked to increase student literacy achievement within a school or district by advancing professional development, instructional resources support and the development of literacy programs.

After attending the ILA 2016 Conference & Exhibits with a cohort of seven K–3 teachers last July, Wilkie and his team overhauled their plans for the new school year. McVey Elementary has since implemented independent reading time, a school-wide author study, interactive read-alouds, “wonderwalls” (boards where students post general or content-related questions to be answered on “Wonder Wednesday”) and more. Wilkie says sustained professional development has been a key component to the success of these efforts.

“Most of us had never attended an ILA conference before. We didn’t really know what we were walking into,” Wilkie says. “On the first day we went to the Preconference Institutes, and everything shifted after that. We were reenergized; we had so many ideas. We met as a team every night at dinner, and our meals were 2–3 hours long because we were sharing information and talking about what we could use at McVey.”

This year, Wilkie brought a group of 23 teachers and staff members to the ILA 2017 Conference.

“This is not just a successful side project,” says ILA Executive Director Marcie Craig Post. “[Wilkie] has woven literacy into the fabric of the school. It’s now at the core of everything they do at McVey Elementary—it reaches every staff member, student, classroom and subject—and that is apparent to anyone who steps in the building.”

She continues, “We are so thankful to Corwin for enabling us to recognize the accomplishments of Wilkie and other deserving leaders.”

In addition, the **ILA William S. Gray Citation of Merit Award**, which honors a nationally or internationally known individual for his or her outstanding contributions to the field of reading/literacy, was awarded to John Guthrie, the Jean Mullan Professor of Literacy Emeritus at the University of Maryland, College Park. Guthrie is the former research director of ILA, a former fellow of the American Education Research Association and the American Psychological Association, a member of the ILA Hall of Fame, and a member of the National Academy of Education. His research focuses on motivations and strategies in reading at all school levels.

Other award highlights include:

- Marique Daugherty, a 2015 ILA 30 Under 30 honoree and language and literacy specialist at Rosedale Hewens Academy Trust, UK, received the **Technology and Literacy Award**.
- The **Jerry Johns Outstanding Teacher Educator in Reading Award** was presented to Peggy Semingson, professor of language and literacy studies at the University of Texas at Arlington.
- Laura Northrop, literacy professor at Cleveland State University, received the **ILA Outstanding Dissertation of the Year Award**.
- **The ILA Special Service Award** was presented to ILA past president Carmelita Williams.

The full list of award recipients 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 over 60 years of experience, ILA has set the standard for how literacy is defined, taught and evaluated. 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. ILA publishes *The Reading Teacher*, *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy* and *Reading Research Quarterly*, which are peer reviewed and edited by leaders in the field. For more information, visit literacyworldwide.org.

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