

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **INTERNATIONAL LITERACY ASSOCIATION ELECTS NEW VICE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS-AT-LARGE TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

NEWARK, Del. (May 15, 2017) — The International Literacy Association (ILA) has elected Bernadette Dwyer as Vice President of the Board. She will begin her term in 2017 and will assume the presidency in 2018. Beverley E. Harris, Susan Paasch and Julia Reynolds have also been elected as new Board members-at-large for the 2017–2020 term.

Dwyer, who previously served on the Board from 2013–2016, has worked in education for 38 years as a classroom teacher, reading specialist, teacher educator, researcher, author and, most recently, a lecturer in literacy studies at Dublin City University (DCU) in Ireland. She served as president and executive committee member of the Literacy Association of Ireland from 2002–2015. In 2016, Dwyer was awarded a DCU President’s Award for her work on the *Chekhov Ebook Lit4life* project—a joint Microsoft, UNESCO, Mediacraft and DCU partnership that harnesses the power of technology to address illiteracy in the global south.

“I am truly honored to be elected Vice President of the Board,” says Dwyer. “I view literacy as a fundamental human right. My goal as VP is to strengthen the resolve of ILA to transform lives through literacy and to position ILA on the world stage as a progressive, proactive, go-to organization for literacy educators, cutting-edge researchers, policymakers and the general public.”

The new class of ILA Board members brings international perspective and a wide range of skills, expertise and experience to their respective roles.

Harris is an adjunct lecturer at Mico University College and University of the West Indies in Jamaica. She served as the ILA representative for the Caribbean from 2012–2015, coordinating ILA officers’ visits and participating in membership drives. Harris also collaborated with ILA and the Organization of American States to host webinars for Caribbean teachers and college students. She is a coauthor of *The Home School Partnership*.

Paasch is principal at Mississippi Heights Elementary School in Minnesota. She has served on the executive board of the Minnesota Reading Association since 2012 and is actively involved in the Central Minnesota Reading Council. After working in elementary and special education for more than 20 years, Paasch decided to participate in a reading licensure program that reignited her passion for literacy and working with struggling readers.

Reynolds is an English language arts program manager at the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System in Georgia. She was a member of ILA’s Classroom Teacher Awards Committee from 2010–2013 and served on the Editorial Review Board of the Michigan Reading Journal from 2013–2016. Reynolds recently started a #publicschoolpride hashtag to promote good news about schools.

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Dwyer, Harris, Paasch and Reynolds were elected by ILA's membership during the ILA 2017 Board Election, which was conducted online between March 28 and May 9, 2017. The new vice president and members-at-large will begin their terms at the ILA 2017 Conference & Exhibits in Orlando, Fla., in July.

***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](http://literacyworldwide.org).

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