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

NEWARK, Del. (May 22, 2020) — The International Literacy Association (ILA) today announced the results of the ILA 2020 Board Election.

Rob Tierney, dean emeritus and professor, University of British Columbia, Canada, honorary professor, University of Sydney, Australia, and distinguished scholar, Beijing Normal University, China, was elected vice president. His term on the ILA Board of Directors will begin July 1, 2020. He will then assume the presidency of the Board on July 1, 2021.

Tierney has held professorships in Australia, the United States and Canada and has published numerous books and scholarly articles focused on literacy education, teacher development, cross-national educational research, educational assessment and equity. His recent projects include research on global epistemologies and cross-cultural research, digital literacy and meaning making, the nature of educational scholarship across countries, teacher development projects in China and indigenous developments in Australia.

Tierney has a long history of involvement with ILA. He has served as coeditor of ILA's Reading Research Quarterly (RRQ) journal, as an editorial review board member for RRQ and as a chair/member of several ILA committees. In 2003, he received the William S. Gray Citation of Merit, ILA's highest honor for contributions to the field.

He has also served as president of the Literacy Research Association and as a consultant for Children's Television Workshop, Apple Computer and UNESCO. He looks forward to bringing his expertise and global perspective to the Board and to helping guide the future of ILA.

"My goal is to help ILA, its affiliates, my colleagues and interested others to make positive and discerning contributions that are both transformative and sustainable," Tierney said. "ILA has been and should be an agent for change and an ally to educators and communities seeking to make a difference locally and globally with initiatives that are visionary and forward thinking as well as credible, ethical, critical, creative and beneficial. I see literacies as being at the epicenter of community development and societal advances that have been and will be key to our futures. I am excited by the various challenges and by what could be."

Three new Board members-at-large were also elected for the 2020–2023 term:

- **Danielle V. Dennis**, a professor of literacy teacher education and director of the University of Rhode Island School of Education. Dennis served from 2014 to 2016 as a member of the ILA Literacy Education Reform Task Force that developed the Frameworks for Literacy Education Reform white paper. Since 2015, she has served as an editorial board member for ILA's *The Reading Teacher* journal. Dennis served as a board member of the Florida

Literacy Association and is currently chair of the Literacy Research Association's Policy and Legislative Committee. As a literacy teacher educator, Dennis's focus is on building strong school–university partnerships. Her research studies preservice and inservice teacher knowledge development through literacy coaching and curriculum development.

- **Annette M. Kiberu**, a librarian at GEMS Cambridge International School in Kampala, Uganda. Kiberu is the former president of the Reading Association of Uganda, a role in which she oversaw a primary literacy festival, six schools' introduction of Book Week, three school librarians' workshops, four national literacy conferences and the 11th Pan African Literacy for All Conference. She is a board member for Lubiri Nabagereka and KinderKare schools. Kiberu chairs the International Development Committee for Africa, which is an affiliate of ILA. Other committees include the Uganda Multilingual Education Network, Uganda Children's Writers and Illustrators Association, Peace Corps Education Committee Uganda and Council of International Schools Library Committee. In 2018, she received the World Literacy Council Award for significant contributions to literacy by an individual.
- **J. Helen Perkins**, a professor of literacy at the University of Memphis in Tennessee. Perkins has served on several ILA committees. Most notably, she served as coeditor of *The Reading Teacher* and as a lead writer for the *Standards for the Preparation of Literacy Professionals 2017*. In addition, she is currently chair of the Advocacy/Legislative Committee and conference diversity advisor for the Literacy Association of Tennessee. She is also the advisor to the University of Memphis Student Chapter of the Literacy Association of Tennessee. Her research focuses on urban literacy.

Tierney, Dennis, Kiberu and Perkins were elected by ILA's membership during the ILA 2020 Board Election, which was conducted online between March 30, 2020, and May 11, 2020. The new vice president and members-at-large will begin their terms on July 1, 2020.

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 146 countries. With over 60 years of experience, ILA has set the standard for how literacy is defined, taught and evaluated. ILA's *Standards for the Preparation of Literacy Professionals 2017* 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, 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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