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

NEWARK, Del. (May 14, 2019) — The International Literacy Association (ILA) today announced the results of the ILA 2019 Board of Directors election.

Current ILA Board member **Stephen Peters** will transition into the position of vice president later this year and assume the presidency in 2020.

Peters is the superintendent of Laurens County School District 55 in South Carolina, which was recently named a District of Distinction; the CEO and president of The Peters Group, a national education consulting company; and the founder of the nationally recognized Gentlemen's & Ladies Club programs, leadership/mentoring programs for at-risk and honor students throughout the United States. He has been a member-at-large on the ILA Board of Directors since 2016.

Among his many contributions to ILA, Peters has been a vocal and enthusiastic proponent of ILA's Children's Rights to Read initiative. His local school board was one of the first to adopt a resolution to support the 10 rights, which have since been integrated into the district's five-year strategic plan.

"I am grateful for the confidence and support of such a dedicated group of educators. Education is a field that is constantly growing and changing, and we need to embrace and promote innovative and efficient ways to anchor literacy as a foundation for all knowledge," says Peters. "While working with a passionate and committed ILA team, I look forward to advancing the important work of ILA."

Three new Board members-at-large were also elected for the 2019–2022 term:

- **Kia Brown-Dudley**, Director of Literacy and Development at The Education Partners in New York. A champion of equity and transparency, she is devoted to improving student outcomes in literacy education.
- **Rachael Gabriel**, Director of the University of Connecticut's Reading and Language Arts Center. A frequent ILA conference presenter as well as an author and reviewer for multiple ILA publications, grants and awards, Gabriel's robust body of research focuses on literacy instruction, leadership and intervention.
- **Laurie Sharp**, Distinguished Chair in Education at West Texas A&M University. An active ILA member for 15 years, she has served on various ILA committees and special interest groups in addition to her volunteer leadership with ILA's Texas chapter, the Texas Association for Literacy Education.

The new class of ILA Board members brings a wide range of skills, expertise and perspectives to their roles. Each of them has a reputation for leadership and a demonstrated commitment to equity in literacy education.

Peters, Brown-Dudley, Gabriel and Sharp were elected by ILA's membership during the ILA 2019 Board Election, which was conducted online between March 27 and May 8, 2019. The new vice president and members-at-large will begin their terms on July 1, 2019.

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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