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## INTERNATIONAL LITERACY ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES NATIONAL RECOGNITION RECIPIENTS

NEWARK, Del. (June 18, 2026) — The International Literacy Association (ILA) has awarded national recognition to seven Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) with exemplary literacy professional preparation programs. Among the recipients announced: **Clemson University** and the **University of Colorado Denver**, both of which earned National Recognition With Distinction—the highest honor ILA awards through its program.

IHEs seeking ILA National Recognition undergo rigorous evaluation, during which independent reviewers assess each program’s alignment with ILA’s *Standards for the Preparation of Literacy Professionals*. Those that score exceptionally well—as did Clemson and University of Colorado Denver—are invited to undergo an in-depth virtual site visit.

Clemson’s Master of Education in Literacy program received praise for the high levels of support provided to students and faculty as well as the program’s focus on cultivating “positive experiences and attitudes.” UC Denver received similar feedback, with reviewers noting that “joy” was a word that came up in every interview conducted, including with former students who talked at length about the importance of infusing the joy of literacy into their own practice.

In addition to Clemson and UC Denver, the following list of schools were recognized:

### Reading/Literacy Specialist Programs

- Bridgewater State University (Bridgewater, MA)
- University of Central Florida (Orlando, FL)

### Elementary/Intermediate Classroom Teacher Programs

- New Jersey City University (Jersey City, NJ)
- University of Missouri–Columbia (Columbia, MO)
- University of Missouri–St. Louis (St. Louis, MO)

### About the International Literacy Association

The International Literacy Association (ILA) is a professional membership organization of literacy educators, researchers, and experts spanning 128 countries. For 70 years, ILA has set the standard for how literacy is defined, taught, and evaluated, connecting research and practice to improve the quality of literacy learning globally. Through its *Standards for the Preparation of Literacy Professionals*, ILA provides an evidence-based benchmark for developing and evaluating literacy professional preparation programs. ILA collaborates worldwide to produce high-quality resources, including its peer-reviewed journals—*The Reading Teacher*, *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*, and *Reading Research Quarterly*. Learn more at [literacyworldwide.org](http://literacyworldwide.org).

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