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INTERNATIONAL LITERACY ASSOCIATION HOSTING TOWN HALL ON CENSORSHIP AND THE ROLE OF SCHOOL LIBRARIANS AROUND THE GLOBE

Free event accompanies recent brief from ILA declaring librarians must be prioritized and essential positions in all schools

NEWARK, Del. (April 19, 2022) — The International Literacy Association (ILA) announced today it will be hosting a town hall on censorship and school librarians across the globe. The free event, which will take place Thursday, April 28, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. ET, will feature Lucy Santos Green, coeditor of *School Libraries Worldwide*; Annette M. Kiberu, librarian and literacy coordinator in Uganda and a member of the ILA Board of Directors; Molly Ness, vice president of Academic Content for Learning Ally and a member of the ILA Board of Directors; and Julia Torres, librarian with Denver Public Schools.

More speakers will be announced in the coming week.

The event follows the publication of [The Essential Leadership of School Librarians](#), a new brief from ILA asserting that all schools should prioritize and fund the role. The organization contends that school librarians, sometimes referred to as media specialists, boost academic achievement, protect access to books, and help students develop a lifelong love of reading.

“When schools advocate for well-funded school libraries that are staffed with full-time certified librarians, they commit to meaningful collaboration between classroom teachers and school librarians—and advance our students’ basic rights to read,” the brief states.

In addition to exploring the power of instructional partnerships between educators and librarians, the brief includes a strong focus on how, despite decades of research connecting librarianship and higher academic achievement, the role of the librarian is disappearing from schools at rapid rates.

“This is a trend that must be reversed. Now more than ever, we need to ensure that schools aren’t losing one of their most important advocates in literacy and equity,” said Kiberu. “The librarian’s role in supporting intellectual freedom is one of their most important. Students deserve access to a thoughtfully curated space ripe for self-exploration and development, which directly impacts their ability to contribute to and shape the world around them.”

[Visit the registration page](#) for more information on the free town hall event.

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 128 countries. With over 65 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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