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INTERNATIONAL LITERACY ASSOCIATION (ILA) PARTNERS WITH DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY (DSU) ON DEI EVENT

Face-to-face gathering marks global organization's first since pre-COVID

NEWARK, Del. (March 17, 2023) — Registration opened today for “Advancing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Through Literacy,” developed in partnership between the International Literacy Association (ILA) and Delaware State University (DSU). The event, geared toward K–12 literacy professionals as well as faculty at institutes of higher education in the Mid-Atlantic region, takes place May 19, 2023, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. ET, and will be held at the Martin Luther King Jr. Student Center on DSU’s campus in Dover, Del.

“ILA is not only committed to culturally responsive literacy instruction, but also to culturally responsive leadership,” said Kia Brown-Dudley, ILA Vice President of the Board and chair of the organization’s Equity and Social Justice Committee. “That’s largely what this event is about, and it’s one of the reasons why we feel it’s such a privilege to work with DSU—a university that demonstrates the power of a community built on a culture of belonging.”

Though the one-day event is not limited to Delawareans, it features interactive sessions that directly support the state’s education goals for literacy and social-emotional learning (SEL) and reflects a shared commitment to research- and evidence-based instructional practices. Topics run the gamut from strategies that foster socially aware and independent readers to how to create building- or district-wide efforts that meet the needs of all students while simultaneously dismantling systems of inequity.

To make the event more accessible to classroom teachers, reading specialists, instructional coaches and literacy leaders, registration rates run from \$39 for verified students to \$79 for ILA members. The fee for those not currently part of the organization is \$123 and includes a one-year membership. A boxed lunch plus morning and afternoon refreshments will be provided.

Although ILA supports literacy educators in 112 countries, the professional organization’s headquarters is in Newark, Del.

“We’re part of a global community, but we’re also part of this local one,” said Nicola Wedderburn, ILA Executive Director, of Bear, Del. “We set the standard for quality literacy instruction around the world, and it’s important to ILA that we offer high-quality professional development to the educators in our own backyard.”

To learn more about the event, visit literacyworldwide.org/DEIEvent.

About the International Literacy Association

The International Literacy Association (ILA) is a professional membership organization of literacy educators, researchers and experts spanning 112 countries. For more than 65 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 across the globe. Through its Standards for the Preparation of Literacy Professionals, ILA 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, which include three peer-reviewed

and edited journals—The Reading Teacher, Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy and Reading Research Quarterly. Learn more at literacyworldwide.org.

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