

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

press@reading.org

LONGWOOD FOUNDATION AWARDS ILA \$300K TO ADVANCE LITERACY LEARNING LIBRARY

Grant to Boost Educator Resources and Expand Reach in Delaware and Surrounding Area

NEWARK, Del. (January 27, 2025) — The International Literacy Association (ILA), a professional membership organization supporting literacy educators in 128 countries, is thrilled to announce it has received a \$300,000 grant from the Longwood Foundation. The grant will bolster the development and expansion of ILA's Literacy Learning Library, a resource hub launched in early 2024 to provide evidence-based tools for educators.

The Literacy Learning Library delivers high-quality, research-backed materials designed to enhance educators' understanding of reading science and its practical application in classrooms. Since its launch, the resource has been adopted by eight K–12 school districts across the United States, including Delaware's Colonial and Christina districts, with users hailing from as far as Paraguay and Saudi Arabia.

"We're excited to deepen our collaboration with Delaware's schools and districts," said Nicola Wedderburn, ILA's executive director. "This grant from the Longwood Foundation will enable us to expand our reach and support even more educators with the tools they need to foster equitable and effective literacy instruction."

Currently, the Literacy Learning Library offers three curated collections of videos, peer-reviewed journal articles and other ILA resources that connect research to practice, equipping educators with strategies to boost student engagement and outcomes. Topics addressed are evidence-based reading instruction, phonics and phonological awareness, and inclusive classroom instruction. The Longwood Foundation grant will allow ILA to introduce additional collections and increase accessibility across Delaware and beyond.

The funding will also support the creation of comprehensive materials to facilitate use of the Literacy Learning Library for both small- and large-scale professional development at school, district and state levels. These resources will aim to establish a common knowledge base and shared language among educators, fostering collaborative learning communities.

"Our goal is to build a strong foundation for literacy learning through resources that bridge the gap between research and practice," added Wedderburn. "By expanding the Literacy Learning Library, we're empowering educators to transform instruction and improve outcomes for all students."

This spring, ILA plans to release a new edition of the Literacy Learning Library aligned with its Standards for the Preparation of Literacy Professionals. The updated offering is designed for higher education institutions and state education departments, including those that have adopted or adapted ILA's standards, such as Delaware.

To learn more about the International Literacy Association and the Literacy Learning Library, visit literacyworldwide.org.

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 nearly 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.

###