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MCDANIEL AND NOTRE DAME COLLEGE PROGRAMS RECEIVE ILA NATIONAL RECOGNITION

NEWARK, Del. (July 15, 2022) — The International Literacy Association (ILA) today announced the latest recipients of its National Recognition program—a seal of approval signifying that the programs adhere to the highest quality standards and benchmarks, and that graduates are well prepared to address today’s challenges in literacy instruction.

The new awardees include the Reading Specialist: Literacy Leadership master’s program at McDaniel College in Maryland and the Elementary/Intermediate Classroom Teacher Program at Notre Dame College in Ohio. This is the second program at Notre Dame College to receive ILA National Recognition. Its Reading/Literacy Specialist Program was honored last year.

ILA’s National Recognition program honors outstanding licensure, certificate and endorsement programs that prepare reading/literacy specialists and elementary/intermediate classroom teachers in the United States. Universities go through a rigorous review process that closely examines all course offerings and each aspect of their teacher preparation program, ensuring strict alignment to the standards and high benchmarks set forth in ILA’s [Standards for the Preparation of Literacy Professionals](#).

Lisa Buckler, coordinator of the Reading Specialist: Literacy Leadership Program at McDaniel College, said using ILA’s *Standards* strengthened their college’s course offerings and resulted in an innovative online program with an authentic practicum experience. “ILA National Recognition further exemplifies McDaniel College’s tradition of excellence in the preparation of contemporary literacy professionals,” she said.

At Notre Dame College, faculty credit ILA’s *Standards* with ensuring the college stays current on research and best practice. “National Recognition from ILA for our Elementary/Intermediate program will assure teacher candidates they are learning from an institution that values quality and accountability,” said Sue Corbin, chair of the Division of Professional Education and a recently elected ILA Board member-at-large. “Teachers who come through our program are able to provide a solid foundation for the literacy journeys of our young learners.”

McDaniel and Notre Dame colleges are part of a growing list of ILA National Recognition recipients, including Grambling State University, Loyola University Maryland, Salisbury University and The University of Texas Permian Basin. Three additional universities have received ILA National Recognition With Distinction, ILA’s highest institutional honor: University of North Georgia, The University of Texas at San Antonio and West Virginia University.

“We congratulate the faculty, students, staff and all involved in these programs at McDaniel and Notre Dame colleges, and we are proud to welcome them into our ILA network,” said J. Helen Perkins, ILA Board member and chair of the ILA Commission on National Recognition. “We can say without a doubt they are among the best literacy teacher preparation programs in the United States.”

To learn more about ILA National Recognition and ILA National Recognition With Distinction, visit the ILA [website](#).

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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