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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION FROM INTERNATIONAL LITERACY ASSOCIATION

NEWARK, Del. (January 31, 2024) — The International Literacy Association (ILA) announced today that The University of Texas at Tyler (UT Tyler) has been honored with ILA National Recognition, an academic honor highlighting teacher preparation programs that are among the best in the United States—which signifies that graduates from these programs are well-equipped to tackle today’s challenges in literacy education.

National Recognition honors exceptional licensure, certificate and endorsement programs that prepare reading/literacy specialists and elementary/intermediate classroom teachers. Universities undergo a thorough review process that analyzes all course offerings and aspects of their teacher preparation program to ensure strict alignment with ILA’s [Standards for the Preparation of Literacy Professionals](#).

UT Tyler was recognized specifically for its M.Ed. Reading Specialist Program. The university joins the ranks of Loyola University Maryland, McDaniel College, Notre Dame College, Salisbury University and The University of Texas Permian Basin.

“ILA National Recognition provided us with a unique opportunity to closely examine and improve many aspects of our Master’s in Reading program,” said Gina Doepker, associate professor of literacy education and program coordinator of the M.Ed. program. “We are honored to be among the handful of programs around the country also holding this select ranking that affirms the excellence of our program and commitment to ILA’s *Standards for the Preparation of Literacy Professionals*.”

J. Helen Perkins, vice president of the ILA Board and chair of the ILA Commission on National Recognition, said ILA is thrilled to welcome UT Tyler into the National Recognition program.

“We congratulate The University of Texas at Tyler and affirm their place as exemplars of excellence in literacy teacher preparation programs nationwide,” she said. “Their commitment to fostering the next generation of literacy education teachers and leaders is commendable, and we are honored to have them as part of the ILA community.”

To learn more about the ILA National Recognition program, 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 128 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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