

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE INTERNATIONAL LITERACY ASSOCIATION ELECTS NEW VICE PRESIDENT
AND MEMBERS TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR UPCOMING TERMS**

NEWARK, Del. (May 11, 2015) – The International Literacy Association (ILA) has elected William H. Teale, professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago, as Board of Director vice president. He will begin his term in 2015 and will assume the presidency in July 2016. Rachel Karchmer-Klein, Catherine Collier and Gwynne Ash have also been elected as new Board members for the 2015–2018 term.

William H. Teale is a member of the Reading Hall of Fame and has authored more than 150 publications focused on early literacy learning, the intersection of technology and literacy education and children’s literature. He previously served on the ILA Board of Directors between 2011–2014.

“Today’s literacy educators are adjusting to increasing globalization, digital changes to the nature of literacy and what needs to be taught in the classroom, and shifting community and governmental influences,” said Teale. “In realizing ILA’s strategic plan, my goal is to have ILA established as the world’s go-to thought leader on literacy—for teachers, for researchers and for the public.”

Rachel Karchmer-Klein is an associate professor of literacy education at the University of Delaware where her research has focused on the relationship between Internet technologies and reading and writing, with particular emphasis on the practical implications of technology use in K–12 education. She believes in fostering collaborative relationships between stakeholders to ensure that educational policies can reflect the realities of the classroom.

Catherine Collier is a reading specialist for Chesapeake Public Schools in Chesapeake, Virginia and writes actively on the topic of literacy and emergent students. Catherine has served as president of the Chesapeake Reading Council, as well as president of the Virginia State Reading Association, and feels strongly that providing teacher training, education and support is crucial to advancing literacy.

Gwynne Ash is a professor at Texas State University. Her research interests include children’s and young adult literature, young adolescents who struggle with school-based literacies and frameworks for literacy instruction. She believes “effective professional development regards teachers as knowledgeable professionals,” and advocates for meaningful literacy policy.

The positions were elected by ILA’s membership during the 2015 ILA Elections, which were conducted online between March 23 and April 27, 2015.

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 75 countries. With 60 years of experience in the field, ILA believes in the transformative power of literacy to create more successful societies,

healthy communities and prosperous economies. 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. The International Literacy Association publishes several peer-reviewed journals, including *The Reading Teacher*, *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy* and *Reading Research Quarterly*. For more information, visit literacyworldwide.org.

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