

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alina O'Donnell  
609.280.3905  
[press@reading.org](mailto:press@reading.org)

## **ILA LAUNCHES NATIONAL RECOGNITION INITIATIVE TO EVALUATE AND AWARD EXCEPTIONAL LITERACY PROFESSIONAL PREP PROGRAMS**

Newark, Del. (July 19, 2019) — The International Literacy Association (ILA) announced today the launch of the ILA National Recognition for the Preparation of Literacy Professionals, an initiative that recognizes outstanding licensure, certificate and endorsement programs that prepare reading/literacy specialists in the United States—the only one of its kind.

ILA National Recognition evaluates education preparation providers (EPPs) who seek the organization's stamp of approval and award the designation on the basis of adherence to ILA's *Standards for the Preparation of Literacy Professionals 2017 (Standards 2017)*. *Standards 2017* addresses the demands of 21st-century literacy instruction through rigorous field work, digital learning and equity-building practices.

Programs scored highly during the ILA National Recognition process may be referred to the second phase of the process, putting them on the path to earning ILA National Recognition with Distinction—the highest honor ILA awards literacy professional preparatory programs.

Two EPPs, The University of Texas San Antonio and West Virginia University, helped pilot the program and have been awarded ILA National Recognition with Distinction.

"This initiative underscores ILA's commitment to preparing high-caliber literacy professionals," said ILA Executive Director Marcie Craig Post. "Programs that have earned National Recognition or National Recognition with Distinction are equipping the next generation of literacy professionals with the knowledge, skills and dispositions they need to meet the challenges of today's classrooms."

Currently, ILA National Recognition and ILA National Recognition with Distinction focus on programs that prepare reading/literacy specialists. Expansion to other literacy professional roles is planned, with a target release of summer 2020.

For more information, visit [literacyworldwide.org/ilanationalrecognition](http://literacyworldwide.org/ilanationalrecognition).

### ***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 146 countries. With over 60 years of experience, ILA has set the standard for how literacy is defined, taught and evaluated. ILA's *Standards for the Preparation of Literacy Professionals 2017* 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, best practices and cutting-edge research to empower educators, inspire students and inform policymakers. ILA publishes *The Reading Teacher*, *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy* and *Reading Research Quarterly*, which are peer reviewed and edited by leaders in the field. For more information, visit [literacyworldwide.org](http://literacyworldwide.org).

###