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## INTERNATIONAL LITERACY ASSOCIATION ELECTS NEW VICE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS-AT-LARGE TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NEWARK, Del. (May 21, 2021) — The International Literacy Association (ILA) today announced the results of the ILA 2021 Board Election.

**Kenneth Kunz**, assistant professor, Monmouth University, New Jersey, and director, For the Love of Literacy, is the newly elected vice president. Kunz, currently a member-at-large on the ILA Board of Directors, begins his new term on July 1, 2021, and will assume the presidency on July 1, 2022.

Kunz, an ILA member since 2008, serves as president of the New Jersey Literacy Association (a state chapter of ILA). He also sits on the board of Little Free Library, the global nonprofit that promotes neighborhood book exchanges.

Kunz began his career as an elementary school teacher in New Jersey. Before joining Monmouth University, he supervised instructional programs in Wall Township Public Schools and the Middlesex School District, served as assistant professor of literacy education at Bloomfield College and was a literacy coach for Rutgers University's Center for Literacy Development.

In addition, Kunz is the director of For the Love of Literacy, which offers on-site and virtual coaching and professional development for educators. He has presented at both state and national conferences and focuses on developing inclusive curriculum programs, such as the Bienvenidos Book Club, a K–3 literacy program for immigrant students and their families, and New Jersey's first LGBTQ+ inclusive set of curriculum resources for English language arts.

"I am honored for this privilege to serve the ILA community and its members, as we share a passion around an important mission of advancing literacy instruction and research," Kunz said. "I look forward to serving on the executive team and continuing to engage with members as we demonstrate our unwavering commitment to literacy and what makes our organization the trusted global leader."

Three new Board members-at-large have also been elected for the 2021–2024 term:

- **Carol Jago**, associate director, California Reading and Literature Project, University of California at Los Angeles. Jago is president-elect of ILA's Adolescent Literacy Interest Group (ALIG). She is a recipient of ALIG's Thought Leader Award and has presented at the group's workshops at ILA conferences. After contributing as a panelist to the NAEP reading and writing frameworks, Jago served a four-year term as a member of the National Assessment Governing Board. She is a prolific writer, with her most recent publication being *The Book in Question: Why and How Reading Is in Crisis* (Heinemann).

- **Molly Ness**, associate professor, Fordham University, New York. Ness is a frequent collaborator with and writer for ILA, having several articles published in both *Literacy Today* and *The Reading Teacher* in addition to authoring literacy leadership briefs and being a featured presenter at multiple ILA virtual events. She currently serves on the review board for *The Reading Teacher* and has also been a reviewer for ILA's Literacy Glossary. In addition, she served as an area chair for the ILA 2019 Conference and as the committee chair of the Diane Lapp & James Flood Professional Collaborator Award. Ness is the founder of End Book Deserts, which shines a spotlight on those working to create book oases in underresourced areas.
- **Dana A. Robertson**, associate professor, University of Wyoming (UW), and executive director, UW's Literacy Research Center & Clinic. Robertson, a past membership director and state coordinator for the Wyoming State Literacy Association, was on the author team for ILA's *Standards for the Preparation of Literacy Professionals 2017*. He has presented at numerous ILA conferences and has been published in *The Reading Teacher*, *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy* and *Literacy Today*. Robertson is currently helping to develop a dual immersion curriculum on the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming to revitalize the Northern Arapaho language and culture.

Kunz, Jago, Ness and Robertson were elected by ILA's membership during the ILA 2021 Board Election, which was conducted online between March 29, 2021, and May 7, 2021. The new vice president and members-at-large will begin their terms on July 1, 2021.

### ***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 128 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).

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