

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

press@reading.org

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA RECEIVES ILA NATIONAL RECOGNITION WITH DISTINCTION FOR EXCELLENCE IN LITERACY PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION

NEWARK, Del. (May 19, 2021) — The International Literacy Association (ILA) today announced that the University of North Georgia is the latest recipient of ILA National Recognition With Distinction—the highest institutional honor awarded by ILA.

ILA National Recognition for the Preparation of Literacy Professionals recognizes outstanding literacy preparation programs in the United States with ILA National Recognition or ILA National Recognition With Distinction. By receiving ILA National Recognition With Distinction, University of North Georgia’s Elementary Education program demonstrated that it adheres to a rigorous set of standards for preparing literacy professionals and exceeds ILA’s benchmarks.

“Our review team was particularly impressed with University of North Georgia and their clear emphasis on continuous improvement in teaching across all areas of literacy,” said Diane Kern, ILA National Recognition program coordinator. “The teacher candidates, all of whom graduate with a reading endorsement, are provided with multiple opportunities to observe, teach, reflect and improve as they progress through the rigorous and robust program. We are honored to award their program ILA National Recognition With Distinction.”

University of North Georgia joins just two institutions that have received the distinction level of honor: The University of Texas at San Antonio and West Virginia University. In addition, Loyola University Maryland has earned ILA National Recognition.

The ILA National Recognition and ILA National Recognition With Distinction honor outstanding licensure, certificate and endorsement programs that prepare reading/literacy specialists and elementary/intermediate classroom teachers. To learn more about the program, visit the [ILA website](#).

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.

###