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press@reading.org

INTERNATIONAL LITERACY ASSOCIATION NAMES TIMOTHY V. RASINSKI RECIPIENT OF 2020 WILLIAM S. GRAY CITATION OF MERIT

This year's awards and grants program honors 20 individuals for their outstanding work in the field

Newark, Del. (October 15, 2020) — The International Literacy Association (ILA) today announced the recipients of its 2020 awards and grants, including the William S. Gray Citation of Merit—ILA's highest honor—which was awarded to Kent State University's Timothy V. Rasinski.

The William S. Gray Citation of Merit honors a nationally or internationally known individual for their outstanding contributions to the field of reading/literacy.

Rasinski, a longtime member of the organization, is a professor of literacy education and the director of Kent State's award-winning Reading and Writing Center. He is the author and editor of more than 200 articles and 50 books, and his research—particularly on word study and fluency—has been cited by the National Reading Panel and numerous journals. In addition, his involvement with ILA is extensive: He served a three-year term on the Board of Directors (when ILA was the International Reading Association), was coeditor of ILA's *The Reading Teacher* journal and is a frequent contributor to all three of ILA's journals and many of ILA's professional learning events.

"Tim Rasinski is one of those names that's synonymous with high-quality literacy research, resources and professional development, especially when it comes to foundational reading and writing skills and struggling readers," said ILA Executive Director Marcie Craig Post. "We are fortunate to benefit from his expertise and his tireless contributions to the field, and it's our honor to recognize him with this well-deserved award."

In addition to Rasinski's ILA involvement, he also served as coeditor of the *Journal of Literacy Research* and president of the College Reading Association, and he has experience as an elementary, middle and Title I schoolteacher. In 2010, he was elected into the Reading Hall of Fame.

In total, 20 educators and literacy leaders were honored in this year's awards program. The Timothy & Cynthia Shanahan Outstanding Dissertation Award, given annually for a dissertation completed in reading or literacy, was presented to John Z. Strong, University of Buffalo, New York, for his dissertation, "The Effects and Social Validity of a Text Structure Intervention for Reading and Writing."

Other award highlights include the following:

- Corwin Literacy Leader Award, presented to Lisa Forehand, Harborside Elementary School, California
- Diane Lapp & James Flood Professional Collaborator Award, presented to Jerry L. Johns, Northern Illinois University; Susan Lenski, Portland State University; and Laurie Elish-Piper, Northern Illinois University
- Elva Knight Research Grant, presented to Alisha Nguyen, Boston College, Massachusetts

- Erwin Zolt Digital Literacy Game Changer Award, presented to Amy Hutchison, George Mason University, Virginia
- Jeanne S. Chall Research Fellowship, presented to Xiaoning Wang, Florida State University
- Jerry Johns Outstanding Teacher Educator in Reading Award, presented to Aimee L. Morewood, West Virginia University
- Maryann Manning Special Service Award, presented to Randall Kincaid, Sevier County School System, Tennessee
- Regie Routman Teacher Recognition Grant, presented to Megan Drayton, Dutch Fork Elementary School, South Carolina

The full list of awards/grants and recipients can be found [here](#).

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.

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