



# International Reading Association

*A membership organization of literacy professionals*

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## Steven L. Layne

Steven L. Layne, professor of literacy education at Judson University, will serve as a member of the International Reading Association Board of Directors from 2011-2014.

Layne received his bachelor's degree in elementary education from then-Judson College in 1989 and went on to earn both his masters and doctorate from Northern Illinois University. He is a fifteen-year veteran of public education where he served as an elementary classroom teacher and a middle school language arts teacher. His work has been recognized with awards for outstanding contributions to the fields of educational research,



teaching, and writing from organizations such as *USA Today* newspaper, The Milken Family Foundation, The National Council of Teachers of English, and the International Reading Association. He served as president of the Illinois Reading Council in 2006 and was inducted into the organization's Hall of Fame in 2010. He received the Distinguished Alumni Award from his alma mater in 2009. An active member of both his state council and IRA committees, he most recently chaired IRA's Poetry and Prose Award Committee.

Layne has authored 21 books including several award-winning titles for children and young adults. His first professional title, *Igniting a Passion for Reading* was released in 2009. He has also written articles, essays, and reflections for a wide range of journals including *The Reading Teacher*, *The Middle School Journal*, and *The Illinois Reading Council Journal*. Currently, Layne is working with his colleague Dr. Gillian Stewart-Wells to unveil Judson University's first doctoral program which will be in literacy education.

### Statement of Philosophy

IRA has been and should remain the largest and most respected voice for literacy worldwide. IRA members and leaders must realize the significant platform the organization has to advance the cause of literacy across the globe and actively manage our opportunities through strategic decisions that are guided by integrity. The organization must find a balance between "spreading its wings"—nurturing cooperative relationships with other literacy organizations, promoting best practice as a stakeholder in major national and global policy decisions impacting literacy, and growing its membership at all levels...and "tending its roots"—providing significant and sustained support to the local, state, and affiliate councils across the world that represent the organization at its best.

### Contact

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