



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Dr. Loretta Walton-Jaggers of Grambling State
University**

Named LRA Educator of the Year

GRAMBLING, LA (August 6, 2014) – Dr. Loretta Walton-Jaggers, a seasoned educator at Grambling State University was recently named Louisiana Reading Association’s Educator of the Year. Dr. Jaggers is a professor of Education Curriculum and Instruction and is the founder and coordinator of the annual **Spring Reading Conference** promoting university, school, and community partnerships at Grambling State University since 1995.

“I am elated for being chosen for this distinguished honor. I love to read as well as teaching others to read. This field has opened many doors of opportunities as well as travel. I’ve traveled throughout the United States, Jamaica, and the Czech Republic while attending reading conferences,” states Dr. Walton-Jaggers.

Louisiana Readers Association (LRA) honored Dr. Walton-Jaggers at its Annual Educator of the Year Banquet on July 25th in Marksville, LA. “Dr. Jaggers has been a member of LRA and IRA for 22 years. In addition, she has been very instrumental in curriculum development at Grambling State University. She co-authored the book, **Developing Literacy Skills Across the Curriculum**, and articles used in the development of courses in the university's teacher education program. Dr. Walton-Jaggers is also the Principle Investigator and Director of the 2014 LA GEAR UP Summer Bridge Program at GSU, sponsored by a grant provided by the Louisiana Office of Financial Assistance (LOSFA)), the program provides opportunities for first semester freshmen to enhance their Reading/Literacy, Math and English skills as well as college and career readiness.

“We are grateful to Dr. Walton-Jaggers for her role in literacy education in Louisiana and congratulate her on this recognition,” says Lena M. Sparacio, M. Ed., Chairperson, Awards and Citations Committee.

The Louisiana Reading Association, one of the largest professional educational organizations in the state, has been promoting and advocating for literacy for more than 50 years. LRA works closely with the International Reading Association and local reading councils, promoting and dispensing research based literacy information to its more than 53,000 members in the U. S. and worldwide. In addition, the LRA provides professional development opportunities for educators and advocates for practices that improve reading instruction and support the best interests of all learners and reading professionals.

About Grambling State University

Grambling State University, located in Grambling, Louisiana, is a historically black university founded in 1901. The University has been accredited by 13 accrediting associations and holds accreditations in all programs required by the Louisiana Board of Regents. The 590-acre campus offers 47 undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Grambling State University is a member of the University of Louisiana System.