



**Michigan Reading Association
2016 Advocacy Award Recipient**

Dr. Nell Duke

In 2016, the Michigan Reading Association created the Advocacy Award to recognize a current sitting legislator (state or federal), or someone who advocates for Michigan children or adults to legislators, in the area of literacy.

Dr. Nell Duke was selected by the MRA Legislative Committee to be the recipient of the 2016 Michigan Reading Association Advocacy Award. Dr. Duke was instrumental in providing key evidence and research regarding literacy bills that had been introduced in the Michigan Senate and House of Representatives, particularly HB 4822. Her article responding to legislation that supported the retention of third grade students not reading at grade level informed teachers, legislators, and the public of the detrimental impact of such action.

Dr. Duke was also recognized for her leadership on the MAISA Early Literacy Taskforce that led to the development of two significant documents: *Essential Instructional Practices in Early Literacy Prekindergarten* and *Essential Instructional Practices in Early Literacy Kindergarten – Grade 3*. These documents are used by schools across Michigan to develop cohesive early literacy programs.

Our congratulations go to Dr. Nell Duke for being the first recipient of this award.