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**Contact: Maureen Gelwicks**  
**[info@edupaperback.org](mailto:info@edupaperback.org)**

**EBMA NAMES NIKKI GRIMES WINNER OF THE  
41<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL JEREMIAH LUDINGTON MEMORIAL AWARD**

**October 8, 2019** – The Educational Book and Media Association (EBMA) is pleased to announce that Nikki Grimes is the recipient of the 2019 Jeremiah Ludington Award. The award, named after EBMA’s founder, is presented annually to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the educational book business. Past winners include Kate DiCamillo, David Wiesner, Brian Selznick, Ashley Bryan, Jon Scieszka, Kevin Henkes, Sharon Draper, and Pam Muñoz Ryan.

Nikki Grimes is a *New York Times* bestselling author, poet, and journalist who has written for readers of all ages. Her distinguished body of work includes *Garvey's Choice*, *What is Goodbye?*, *Bronx Masquerade*, *Ordinary Hazards: A Memoir* and *Barack Obama: Son of Promise, Child of Hope*. Her work has won the Coretta Scott King Award and the Horace Mann Upstanders Award, been acclaimed with the Coretta Scott King Author Honor, and recognized as ALA Notable Children’s Books. She herself is the recipient of the Children's Literature Legacy Award, the Virginia Hamilton Literary Award, and the NCTE Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children.

*“The EBMA community is honored to present this year’s Ludington Award to Nikki Grimes,” said Joyce Skokut, EBMA President. “Nikki’s prose and poetry are moving and influential, and her vast body of work continues to impact, inspire, and entertain readers, students, and library patrons.”*

Ms. Grimes will accept the Ludington Award at EBMA’s annual conference in Puerto Rico in January 2020. As part of the award, EBMA will present a \$2,500 check to the book related charity of Ms. Grimes’s choice.

EBMA is an association of more than 30 wholesalers and 100 publishers who are reputable and authoritative suppliers of educational paperbacks, pre-bound books, e-books, and other materials to the school and library market. For more information about EBMA and the Ludington Award, visit [www.edupaperback.org](http://www.edupaperback.org).

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**PRESIDENT**  
**JOYCE SKOKUT**

Ingram Content Group  
14 Ingram Blvd – MS 635  
La Vergne, TN 37086  
615.213.5914  
[joyce.skokut@ingramcontent.com](mailto:joyce.skokut@ingramcontent.com)

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
**NANCY STETZINGER**

Follett School Solutions  
1340 Ridgeview Drive  
McHenry, IL 60050  
708-884-7344  
[nstetzinger@follett.com](mailto:nstetzinger@follett.com)

**TREASURER**  
**BRYAN THOMPSON**

Steps to Literacy, LLC  
PO Box 6737  
Bridgewater, NJ 08807  
732.560.8368  
[bthompson@stepstoliteracy.com](mailto:bthompson@stepstoliteracy.com)

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**BRIAN GORG**

EBMA  
PO Box 3363  
Warrenton, VA 20188  
540.318.7770  
[info@edupaperback.org](mailto:info@edupaperback.org)

Visit our website at [www.edupaperback.org](http://www.edupaperback.org)