



Iowa Alliance for Arts Education

"Advancing the Heart of 21st Century Skills"

What's Happening?

Iowa Bandmasters Conference
Dubuque Room, Marriott Hotel, Des Moines
10:00 a.m. May 13, 2017

Iowa Legislature and the Arts:

The 2016 Iowa legislature appropriated \$25,000 (matched by IAAE) to help fund the IAAE "Model of Excellence" Mentoring Program for beginning fine arts teachers in the state. On January 23, 2017, the governor announced that this funding was to be cut from the 2017-18 fiscal year budget. On January 25, 2017, IAAE held its fourth annual Arts Advocacy Day at the State Capitol in Des Moines and was able to testify before both the House and Senate Education Committees on the importance of arts education in Iowa schools and the effectiveness of the mentoring program. The group that testified for the Education Committees was: John Lloyd Young-Turnaround Arts School artist and Tony award winning actor, Kelly Krestchmer-Performing Arts Coordinator for Des Moines Public Schools, Nancy Standafer-IAAE mentor, Christen Nicoll-mentor program participant, David Baxter- mentor program participant, Laura Thieben- mentor program participant, and Leon Kuehner- IAAE Executive Director. IAAE also met previously with legislative leaders in both houses and on Arts Advocacy Day to discuss this funding. IAAE is happy to report that the \$25,000 funding has been restored by the 2017 Iowa legislature and SF 151 is awaiting the governor's signature. This is a very special achievement considering the six million dollar cut that was imposed on the Iowa Cultural Trust Fund and the budgets cuts imposed during this legislative session. IAAE is currently beginning the process of raising the \$25,000 match to fund the mentor program for the 2017-18 school year.

ESSA and the Arts:

IAAE has been monitoring the development of the Iowa ESSA plan during the past year. The ESSA Advisory Committee met on August 18, October 19, December 7 and February 17th. On December 8, 2016, Helen Duranleau-Brennan, Martha Kroese, Ben Heinen, Kendra Leisinger, Larry Murphy, Angela Matsuoka and Leon Kuehner met with Ryan Wise and Dave Tilly of the Iowa Department of Education to discuss the "well rounded" education aspect of the ESSA act. The meeting also included representatives from Physical Education and Social Studies. The importance of the adoption of standards for Fine Arts and the availability of funds for professional

development made available by ESSA were discussed. The impact that arts education also has on student achievement and school improvement were emphasized as well. A series of public meetings concerning the Iowa ESSA plan were held around the state during January and February. There will also be a time for public input on the Iowa ESSA plan using an online format. This will take place between May 26 and June 15th. The biggest win so far is in regard to the Fine Arts place in the Iowa Academic Standards. We will be working on getting language in the Iowa plan to highlight the importance of student learning and educator learning utilizing professional development around the Iowa Academic Standards.

Arts Standards Adoption:

In May of 2016, IAAE did a presentation to the State Board of Education on the adoption of standards for the Fine Arts in the state of Iowa. The State Board voted in November of 2016 to move the adoption of fine arts standards forward. A committee of 22 arts educators from across the state was selected by the Iowa Department of Education to review the National Core Arts Standards and make any additions or modifications deemed necessary. The committee has four scheduled meetings with four subject-specific meetings scheduled in between the large group meetings. The instrumental music subcommittee is Nate Sletten, Kevin Price-Brenner, Dan Black and Leon Kuehner. The Iowa Department of Education had solicited input on the importance of arts standards for the state of Iowa and on individual components of the National Core Arts Standards. This was done at meetings at AEAs across the state and by an online survey. The submission of the arts standards for the state of Iowa to the State Board of Education is scheduled for November of 2017.

This process is very important for arts education in Iowa. Iowa is currently the only state in the United States that does not have standards for arts education. This process started ten years ago with IAAE advocating for the inclusion of the Fine Arts in Iowa Core. With the adoption of the Every Student Succeeds Act and the designation of the arts and music as part of a “well rounded education”, this momentum for the adoption of fine arts standards increased. IAAE is hopeful that this adoption will take place during the 2017-18 school year.