

**The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts  
announces**

**Guilford County Schools Board of Education  
of Greensboro, North Carolina  
Receives \$10,000 Kennedy Center and  
National School Board Association Award**

**National Award Recognizes Outstanding School Board Support of the Arts**

(WASHINGTON)—The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts today announced that the Guilford County Schools Board of Education in Greensboro, North Carolina, has received the 30th annual Kennedy Center and National School Boards Association (NSBA) Award. The award, which includes a \$10,000 prize, was presented on Saturday, April 7, at the NSBA’s Annual Conference in San Antonio, Texas. Since 1989, this national award has recognized individual school boards for their outstanding support of arts education. The Greensboro district was chosen from nominees around the country for its support of high-quality arts education.

“We are pleased to recognize the Guilford County Schools Board of Education for its dedication to providing a quality arts education for all students.” said Mario R. Rossero, Senior Vice President of Education at the Kennedy Center. “Through our work in schools across the country, we see that learning in and through the arts is a crucial component of every child’s educational journey.”

The Kennedy Center and NSBA award honors the work of the 2017 school board, led by Board Chair Alan W. Duncan, Vice Chair Darlene Garrett, T. Dianne Bellamy Small, Wes

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Cashwell, Byron Gladden, Deena A. Hayes, Anita Sharpe, Pat Tillman, and Linda Welborn. Arts education continues to be the centerpiece of a comprehensive, holistic education for all students in Guilford County Schools. The Board has shown a strong commitment to the arts by allocating a significant percentage of the district budget to the arts despite economic setbacks, executing extensive impact evaluation work, and dedicating significant resources toward the expansion of professional development opportunities for teachers. Additional commitments include ensuring all third, fourth, and seventh grade students experience the symphony for free each year, and ensuring all fifth grade students experience the opera. Additionally, the district provides artists-in-residence to fourth grade classrooms to teach history through art. Through these efforts the district has seen an increase of arts enrollment from 70% in 2008 to 82.1% in 2017.

The district is committed to a wide variety of arts partnerships and, with significant input from all stakeholders, has developed an Arts Master Plan that will continue the path for a strong commitment for the arts in the district, with goals regarding policy; professional development; community engagement; curriculum, instruction, and assessment; and data-driven decision making. The Guilford County Schools Board of Education intends to use its award to continue funding and enhancing arts education opportunities districtwide.

Each year, a national review panel selects the recipient school board from a pool of nominees from across the country. School boards selected for this national honor must demonstrate support for four of the five core disciplines in arts education programs: visual arts, music, theater, dance, and media arts. Instruction and programming must be available for all students throughout the district. The ways in which the school board develops collaborative partnerships with the cultural resources available in the community are also an important consideration in reviewing nominations.

### **About Education at the Kennedy Center**

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is the national champion for arts learning and creativity. Committed to increasing opportunities for all people to participate in, learn about, and understand the arts, the Center offers programs and events that strive to reflect the nation and its communities, and that are accessible and inclusive for all. From the Center's stages to classrooms and communities across the country, to online resources accessible nearly anywhere, the Center serves the burgeoning artist, the curious explorer, the

student (of any age), the teacher and teaching artist—any person interested in arts learning and utilizing the arts for positive change.

As an essential component of the living memorial to President Kennedy, the Center’s Education programs utilize the arts to embrace the ideals of service, justice, freedom, courage, and gratitude, and cultivate the Citizen Artists in all the people we serve. For more information, please visit [kennedy-center.org/education/](https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/).

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