

**64 D.C. Area Teachers
Honored by the Kennedy Center
For Engagement in Extensive Professional Learning
Through the Arts
At Awards Ceremony Friday, April 20, 2018**

(WASHINGTON)—Sixty-four Washington, D.C. metropolitan area teachers will be awarded Certificates of Study for their engagement in the Kennedy Center’s Changing Education Through the Arts (CETA), a professional learning program designed to assist educators within the Washington, D.C. area in efforts to teach the arts as well as through the practice of arts-integrated instruction. An awards ceremony and reception will be held Friday, April 20, 2018 at the Kennedy Center.

[Numerous](#) studies point to the value of arts education in improving student outcomes, yet teachers may not have the resources, access, or experience to implement arts integration across the curriculum. Partnering with educators is fundamental to arts-based learning. Through a variety of professional learning efforts, the CETA program focuses on two approaches: providing new strategies for arts specialists to teach the arts, and helping classroom teachers learn how to integrate other subject area(s) through the arts. By learning through arts integration, students engage in a creative process which connects an art form and another subject area and meets evolving objectives in both. The Certificate of Study recognizes educators who have continued their professional learning in the arts.

The awards ceremony will recognize teachers from the following local school districts: Alexandria City Public Schools, Virginia; Arlington Public Schools, Virginia; Fairfax County Public Schools, Virginia; and Prince William County Public Schools, Virginia as well as The Lab School of Washington. A complete list of teachers appears below.

Recipients of the 2018 Certificate of Study Award

Alexandria City Public Schools

(Virginia)

Charles Barrett Elementary School

Michelle E. Hart
Jennifer Yeager

John Adams Elementary School

Andrew Bawden
Alexandra Nicole Bender
Nicole Julia Demski
Katelin DeRocco
Veronica Doody
Juliet Marie Harris
Leslie Herron
Lori Ann McAndrews
Ellen Nipar
Andrea La'Chandra Chrisjun Ridley
Heather Roush
Jessica Yvonne Shirley
Emily Smith
Ann Marie Hiebert Tejada
Mary Carrice Whorl

Arlington Public Schools (Virginia)

Abingdon Elementary

Kimberlee Ann Gorecki
Nicole Jondahl
Toni Svonavec

Arlington Traditional School

Miriam Capellan
Brittany Gonzalez
Sarah McReynolds
Amber Mollet
Veronica Perez Perea

Drew Model Elementary School

Elvira Arnal
Gwenda Atkinson
Martha Azero
Amie Flowers Shakespeare

Kenmore Middle School

Jennifer L. Hesla

Long Branch Elementary School

Lee Ayoub
Julie Bato
Rebecca M. Kallem
Tara L. Mitchell
Dina Donnelly Yauger
Gwenn Zaberer

McKinley Elementary

Kirsten Walleck

Patrick Henry Elementary

Karen Alexis Gordon Bastow

Fairfax County Public Schools

(Virginia)

Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences

Elizabeth Armitage
Laura Bailey
Stephanie N. Gardner
Jolene M. Lentowski
Rahah Mahmood
Maggie Marach
Indiana Obando
Sarah Packett
Andrea Pfiester

Arianna Pieragostini
Marilyn Rossen
Jessica Vargas
Denise Vieira
Shannon Wang
Joanne Marie Warner
Caitlyn Yost-Blakely

Canterbury Woods Elementary
Michelle Wesolowski

Island Creek Elementary
Ashley Cuthbertson

Woodburn School for the Fine & Communicative Arts
Fillory Correa-Dock
Heather Crilley
Fran L. Nadel
Morgan N. Vaught
Susan Dickerson Vinisky

Prince William County Public Schools (Virginia)
Occoquan Elementary School
Clare A. Phillips

Private School
The Lab School of Washington
Mandy Newport
Bryan Riha

In order to receive a Certificate of Study, teachers participate in a minimum of 21 hours of professional learning through the CETA program in order to explore ways to bring the arts into their classrooms. In addition, they develop and submit documentation that shows evidence of the impact of the arts on student learning. The documentation supports research studies conducted by the Kennedy Center showing that arts integration—teaching other subject areas through the arts—can have a positive impact on student creativity and student engagement.

Through the Kennedy Center’s CETA program, teachers study with their colleagues in courses and workshops led by expert teaching artists and arts educators. They learn about the arts and ways to integrate the arts into their teaching through a range of programs designed to meet their varying needs, interests, and experience. Each year, more than 700 teachers participate in approximately 90 courses and workshops, which impact around 21,000 students and are available to any teacher in the D.C. metropolitan area. More in-depth programs take place in Kennedy Center partner schools that have committed to a school-wide focus on arts integration. Professional learning programs developed and refined locally through this program are shared

nationally through the [Kennedy Center's Partners in Education program](#) and through this work, a national learning network of educators is expanded.

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/.

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