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**Subject: Message #133: Arkansas Arts Roundtable: Why the Arts are Essential in NW Arkansas**

**Date: May 18, 2017**

**To: ccss@list.state.ar.us**

**From: Arkansas Department of Education Curriculum and Instruction Unit**

Dear Arkansas Educators,

The University of Arkansas, the [J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences](#) and its [Department of Art](#) will join [Arkansans for the Arts](#) and the Arkansas Department of Education to host a day of roundtable discussions that underscore the importance of the arts in Northwest Arkansas.

[Arkansas Arts Roundtable: Why the Arts are Essential in NW Arkansas](#) will take place Thursday, June 1, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the [Jim and Joyce Faulkner Performing Arts Center](#).

The event's focus will be an ongoing conversation about the importance of the arts, arts education, and creative placemaking in Northwest Arkansas. Speakers and panelists will discuss opportunities and challenges in utilizing the arts to make Northwest Arkansas an even better place to live.

Todd Shields, Dean of Fulbright College, will be the day's keynote speaker with "The Arts as the Interdisciplinary Driver of Education."

"The arts are at the core of all we do," Shields said. "The arts are the interdisciplinary threads that weave through all of our classes and throughout our community to better the lives of all who work and live in northwest Arkansas and beyond."

Additionally, during the Arts Education Panel, participants will discuss the following questions in the following areas:

- **Policy:** What are the opportunities for arts education in the Arkansas Department of Education's strategic planning, Title I, and in new federal education laws?
- **Research:** How could the Arts Education Data Dashboard be an effective tool in education, the nonprofit arts sector, and the business community?
- **Collaboration:** Are we building effective collaborations for the future between school arts programs, community arts programs, and the economic sector in northwest Arkansas?
- **Support:** How can we provide necessary support and resources for arts educators in northwest Arkansas?
- **Workforce:** How can arts education prepare students for a career in northwest Arkansas?

The roundtable event is free and open to the public and includes a free lunch. Participants, however, must [RSVP to register](#). Seating is limited and on a first come, first served basis.

The day's schedule will include:

- 9 a.m. – **Welcome and Introductions**, Joy Pennington of Arkansans for the Arts
- 9:15 a.m. – **Welcome and Comments**, University of Arkansas Provost Jim Coleman
- 9:30 a.m. – **The Arts Education Data Revolution**, Robert Morrison of Quadrant Research

*Please share this information with others that might be interested. Thank you for serving the students of Arkansas.*





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- 10:30 a.m. – **Arts Education Panel**, moderated by John Brown of the Windgate Foundation and featuring
    - Stacy Smith, Assistant Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education
    - Anne Kraybill, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art
    - Gretchen Wilkes, Farmington Public Schools
    - Chal Ragsdale, University of Arkansas Department of Music
    - Anna Clark, Northwest Arkansas Council
  - 11:30 a.m. – **Lunch**
  - 12:15 p.m. – **Keynote Address: The Arts as the Interdisciplinary Driver of Education**, by Todd Shields, Dean of the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences
  - 12:45 p.m. – **Successes in Creative Placemaking**, moderated by Molly Rawn of the Fayetteville Advertising and Promotion Commission and featuring
    - Julia White, Tulsa Artist Fellowship
    - Joe Randel, Walton Family Foundation
    - State Representative Greg Leding
    - Michael Riha, University of Arkansas Department of Theatre
    - Bryce Harrison, Cranford Johnson Robinson Woods
  - 1:45 p.m. – **Final Comments**, Joy Pennington of Arkansasans for the Arts

For more information, email [penningtonjoy1@gmail.com](mailto:penningtonjoy1@gmail.com) or call 501-257-7486.

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