



Advancing Art Education

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Executive Director

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Dear School Administrator:

Creativity, imagination, and innovation have been identified as critical 21st-century skills that all learners will need to be successful. Historical advances in perception, innovation, and creative thought are rich with voices from the field of art education.

The 2011 National Art Education Association (NAEA) National Convention will be held in Seattle, Washington, March 17-20. This year's theme—**Creativity, Imagination, and Innovation in Art Education**—will fully explore how learning in the visual arts supports academic achievement and advances knowledge and understanding across the curriculum. More than 1,000 sessions will offer opportunities for educators to engage in diverse and dynamic professional development sessions that provide models of exemplary practice in curriculum and assessment; salient research on brain-based learning and implications for the classroom will also be explored. Other learning highlights include interactive hands-on workshops, museum tours, and distinguished artists series. All program events are 100% art education content that can be applied immediately to the classroom.

The NAEA National Convention is the most comprehensive professional development opportunity worldwide for educators engaged with the arts in learning. More than 5,000 education professionals gather annually from across the United States and throughout the world, representing art specialists and teachers of the visual arts, school district administrators, university professors and scholars, researchers, and museum educators.

As educators, we know that in this climate of high stakes testing, the arts are critically important in developing human potential and preparing our students for success in today's world. By providing released time for this professional development opportunity, and supporting travel and lodging, your encouragement of the art educators in your school further advances their knowledge and professional skills.

Further Convention details will continue to be posted on the NAEA website at www.arteducators.org. Feel free to contact us for further information.

We look forward to providing a valuable and timely professional experience for your art educators! I extend my appreciation to you for your leadership as we work together toward ensuring a quality education for our nation's youngest citizens—our children and youth.

Sincerely,

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