Arts | Learning

29th Annual

Champions of Arts Education Advocacy Awards

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2016, 6:30 PM

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL, 17 WILLOW STREET, WESTBOROUGH, MA

29th Annual
Champions of Arts Education Advocacy Awards

Knights of Columbus Hall
17 Willow Street, Westborough, MA 01581
Wednesday, June 1, 2016, 6:30 PM

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PROGRAM

TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTER(S)
6:30	**Reception**	Perrier and Cheese
7:00	**Welcome and Performance**	Charles Combs, President, Arts|Learning Board Keith Curbow, Chair, Networking and Advocacy Team KeeHwang Lee, cellist, The Bromfield School, Harvard, MA
7:05	**Awards Presentations, Part 1**	Networking and Advocacy Team Members
	Comments from Select Awardees	Steve Seidel, Oddleifson Award Noreen Diamond-Burdett, Irene Buck Award Senator Patricia Jehlen, Legislative Leader Award Representative Stephen Kulik, Legislative Leader Award
7:30	**Video Presentation**	Dance in the Schools, Erica Sigal, Director
7:35	**Awards Presentations, Part 2**	Networking and Advocacy Team Members
8:00	**Performance**	Song from "Pirates of Penzance", Gilbert and Sullivan The WRCC Players, Bill Jacob, Director

2016 "Champions of Arts Education Advocacy" Awardees

A|L Board of Trustees Awards:

Eric Oddleifson Arts|Learning Service Award (see page 5)

- **Steven Seidel**, Patricia Bauman and John Landrum Bryant Lecturer on Arts in Education and the Director of the Arts in Education Program, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Networking and Advocacy Leadership Team Awards:

Legislative Leadership Award (see page 5)

- **Massachusetts State Senator Patricia Jehlen** (D-Somerville), Senate Vice-Chair, Joint Committee on Education.
- **Massachusetts House Representative Steve Kulik** (D-Worthington). Vice Chair, House Committee on Ways & Means.

Media Support of Arts Education Award (see page 6)

- **Steven Ledbetter** - Concord Chamber Music Society; author, teacher, free-lance writer and lecturer on music

Irene Buck Service to Arts Education Award (see page 7)

- Noreen Diamond-Burdett, Director of Fine Arts and Applied Arts, Milton Public Schools

Nominated Awards:

Kathy Tosolini Excellence in School Administration (see page 8)

- **Richard Saunders**, Director of Music PK-12, Somerville Public Schools

Outstanding Community Arts Education Collaborative (see page 9)

- Dance: **Dance in The Schools**, Brighton, MA; Erica Sigal – Coordinator, in collaboration with the Cambridge Public Schools

Distinguished Arts Educator Advocate Awards (see pages 9-10)

- Dennis Wrenn Distinguished Music Educator Advocacy Award
  - **Jane Dufault** (Music & Integrated Arts), retired, Westport Public Schools
- Distinguished Visual Art Educator Advocacy Award:
  - **Stacy Lord**, Art Teacher, Worcester East Middle School, Worcester, MA.

Outstanding Parent Arts Advocate Award (see page 10)

- **Fanfare! for Music**, Parent Support Group, Harvard Public Schools, Harvard, MA; Sharon Schmidt, president

School of Excellence Award (see page 11)

- **The Sage School, Foxboro, MA.** Marie Leary, Interim Head of School and Danielle A Bazinet, Performing Arts Teacher/Arts Department Chair

Good Neighbor Award (see page 11)

- Theatre: **WRCC Players**, West Roxbury, MA, Bill Jacob, Founding Director

About our Award Winners

Arts|Learning Board of Trustees Award

Eric Oddleifson Arts|Learning Service Award

Steven Seidel, Patricia Bauman and John Landrum Bryant Lecturer on Arts in Education and the Director of the Arts-in-Education Program, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, Massachusetts

This award recognizes individuals who have made significant and lasting contributions in support of the arts, arts education, and interdisciplinary learning through and with the arts. The award recipient is chosen by the Arts|Learning Board of Trustees.

Steve Seidel is the Director of the Arts-in-Education Program at HGSE. At Project Zero, he was principal investigator on projects that study the use of reflective practices in schools, the close examination of student work, and documentation of learning. This research included The Evidence Project, a study using student work as evidence of learning and teaching, and Making Learning Visible, a study of group learning and assessment in partnership with the Reggio Emilia early childhood schools in Italy.

Steve recently completed *Arts Survive*, a study of the sustainability of arts education partnerships. His teaching and writing for the past decade have largely focused on arts education and the improvement of teaching and assessment across elementary and secondary settings. He also convenes a monthly discussion group on collaborative assessment for educators: ROUNDS at Project Zero. Before coming to the School, he taught high-school theater and language arts in the Boston area for 17 years.

Upon his appointment as senior lecturer at Harvard in 2014, Harvard Graduate School of Education Dean James Ryan stated: "Steve is the heart of our Arts-in-Education master's program. Without his warmth, his thoughtful leadership, and his incredible generosity of time, that program — and this community as a whole — would simply not be the same. Steve is also recognized internationally as an expert in arts education, working with organizations such as the Tate Museums in London and Yo Yo Ma's Silk Road Project here at Harvard. This promotion is a small measure of appreciation for the tremendous amount that Steve has given to his students and to the field of education over the past 16 years."

Networking & Advocacy Leadership Team Awards

Legislative Leadership Awards. These awards honor Massachusetts MA Legislators for demonstrating distinguished leadership, support and commitment in the areas of arts education, education reform, and arts funding. The Recipients are chosen by the Arts|Learning Networking and Advocacy Leadership Team.

Massachusetts State Senator Patricia Jehlen (D-Somerville), Senate Vice-Chair, Joint Committee on Education. Senator Patricia Jehlen was first elected to the Massachusetts Senate in 2005. She represents the Second Middlesex district, which includes Medford, Somerville, Winchester, and Cambridge. She is Assistant Vice-Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, Senate Chair of the Committee on Elder Affairs, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Education, and Chair of the Special Senate Committee on Innovative and Alternative Education. She also serves on the Committees on Housing and the Judiciary.

The Senator co-chairs the LGBT Aging Commission and the Elder Economic Security Commission. She is also a member of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Commission, the Criminal Justice Commission, and the Foundation Budget Review Commission.

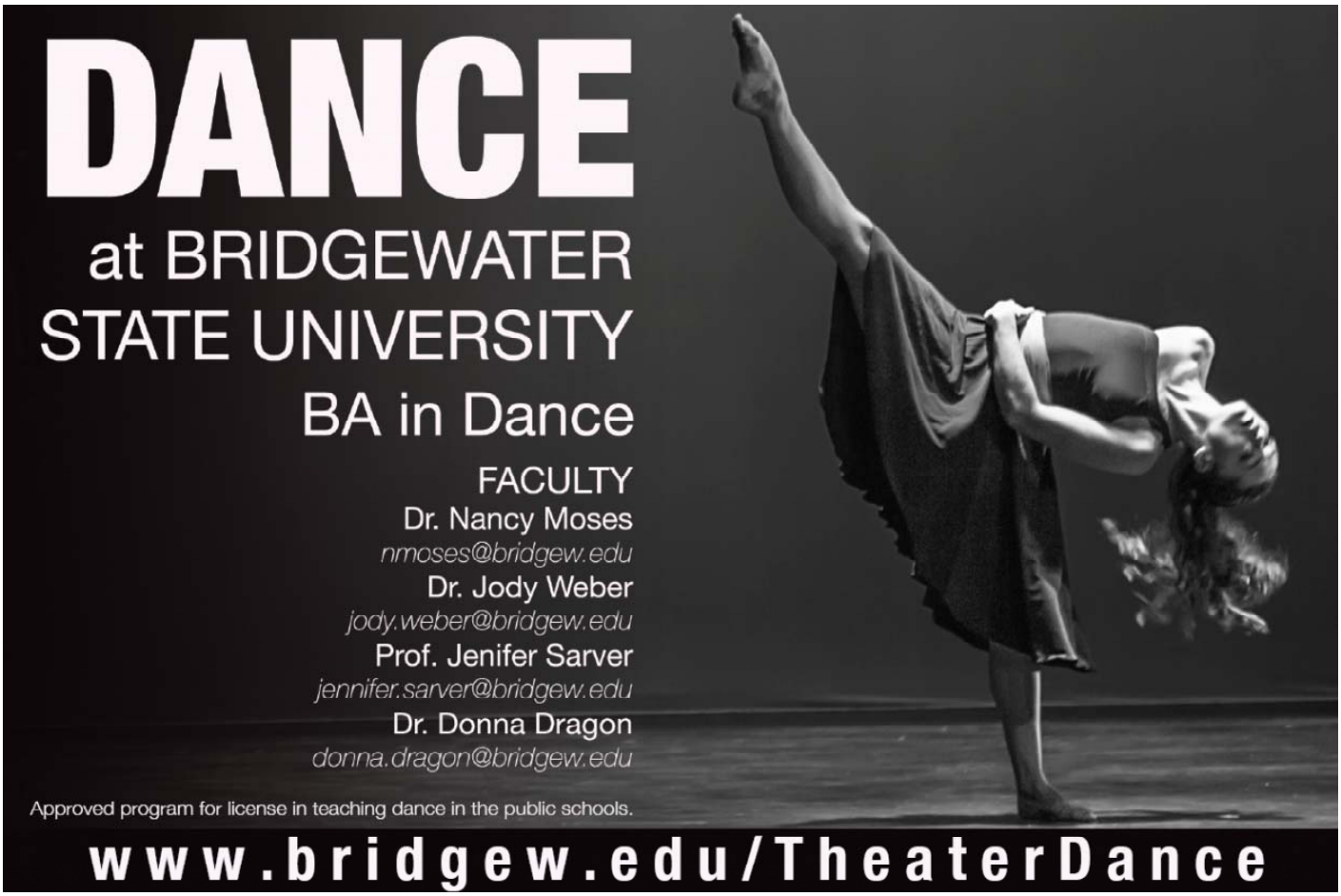
Her top legislative priorities are equitable and excellent education, universal and affordable health care, and jobs with decent wages and benefits, including earned sick time. In the area of elder services, her priority making sure that seniors of all income levels can find housing and services that meet their needs, whether in the community or in institutions. Pat is an ardent supporter of the MCC, critic of standardization and narrowing of curriculum, supports greater investment in public schools, and fully understands and supports the importance of equitable arts education for all children.

Senator Jehlen lives in Somerville with her husband, Alain. She has three children and two grandchildren. The Jehlens' three children all graduated from Somerville High School. Nick is a graphic designer and consultant with The Action Mill. Peter, a program manager for medical trials, lives near Magoun Square with his wife Sarah Shugars. Wendy, a dancer/choreographer and ASL interpreter, lives with the Jehlens and her daughters Anika and Kayala.

Massachusetts House Representative Stephen Kulik (D-Worthington). Vice Chair, House Committee on Ways & Means.

Representative Stephen Kulik (D-Worthington) was first elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in October, 1993. He is now in his 12th term representing the 19 towns in the First Franklin District, located in the western Massachusetts counties of Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin, and geographically the second largest House district in the state. Prior to entering the legislature, Steve served 11 years as a selectman in the town of Worthington, where he was active in many regional and statewide organizations promoting the interests of municipal government, especially small towns. He is a past president of the Massachusetts Selectmen's Association and the Massachusetts Municipal Association.

During his time in the legislature, Steve has been a leader on issues of importance to his district, including public education, the environment and energy, economic development, health care, food and agricultural policy, and municipal government. Among



his many legislative accomplishments, he has authored successful legislation to reform health insurance for municipal workers, strengthen and fund the Community Preservation Act (CPA), establish a statewide Food Policy Council, and create a state tax credit for donations of land for open space and conservation. Steve was also a member of the Dairy Farm Task Force, which wrote and passed major legislation in 2007 to stabilize and strengthen the state's dairy farms.

Steve is presently the Vice Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, an influential position with responsibilities that include helping to craft the state's annual budget. As Vice-Chair, he sits on the six-member conference committee of the House and Senate which reconciles the two versions of the budget for presentation to the full legislature. In this capacity, Steve has been a key advocate for the MCC during budget process. He is also very supportive of Mass Humanities, and a big fan of Double Edge Theatre in Ashfield.

Steve is also a member of several legislative caucuses which focus on issues of importance to western Massachusetts. He founded the Small Town and Rural Caucus, and is a member of the Regional School Caucus, the Regional Transportation Caucus, the Manufacturing Caucus, and the Progressive Caucus. He is also active in several regional and national legislative organizations, including serving on the executive committee of the Council of State Governments/ Eastern Regional Conference (CSG/ERC). As part of CSG/ERC, he is an active member of Northeast States for Agricultural Stewardship (NSAS). He is presently the vice-chair of State Agriculture and Rural Leaders (SARL), a national group of legislators who work on state and federal policy issues regarding agriculture, water resources, environment, trade, and other issues of importance to rural communities.

Steve and his wife, Suzanne, live in Worthington, where they raised their two adult children, Sam and Elizabeth.

Media Support of Arts Education Award

Steven Ledbetter - Concord Chamber Music Society; author, free-lance writer, and lecturer on music

This award recognizes print, digital, or broadcast media that does an outstanding job of promoting public awareness of arts, arts education, and culture to a wide audience. It honors media professionals who have used media presence to promote arts education and who demonstrate knowledge of the arts, active attendance at arts events, and commitment to the importance of arts education. This award is selected by the A|L Networking and Advocacy Leadership Team.

Steven Ledbetter is a scholar, writer, lecturer, and conductor, who served as Musicologist and Program Annotator for the Boston Symphony Orchestra from 1979 to 1998. In addition to writing for many orchestras, chamber ensembles, and other musical institutions throughout the United States, he has written the booklet notes for nearly 200 recordings. As a scholar, his research specialties include the 16th-century Italian madrigalist Luca Marenzio, music of the turn-of-the-century New England romantic composers (particularly George W. Chadwick), and musical theater (particularly Gilbert and Sullivan and American operetta traditions from Victor Herbert on).

After earning his B.A. in music from Pomona College and an M.A. and Ph.D. in musicology at New York University, he served on the faculties of NYU and Dartmouth before joining the Boston Symphony, and has taught at Harvard and the Institute for Studies in American Music at Brooklyn College. He has conducted choral ensembles and orchestras at Dartmouth College and Providence College and sung in the Boston Symphony's Tanglewood Festival Chorus for more than 15 years.

He is co-editor of the secular works of Luca Marenzio and an editor of the complete operas of Gilbert and Sullivan (both multi-volume editions in progress from Broude Brothers Limited). He has produced recordings of chamber music by Boston composers for Northeastern Records, including the complete string quartets of Chadwick and works by John K. Paine, Arthur Foote, and Amy Beach. In 1988 he edited Sennets & Tuckets, a book of essays about Leonard Bernstein, for Bernstein's 70th birthday celebration at Tanglewood. For the New Grove Dictionary of Opera, he was the area editor for pre-1918 American opera. In 1991 his BSO program notes received an ASCAP/Deems Taylor award for "distinguished print and media coverage of music."

After nearly twenty years on the staff of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, he created his own service, Steven Ledbetter Program Notes, in 1998, and now writes notes for orchestras and other ensembles from Boston to Florida to California and for concert venues like Carnegie Hall. He is in great demand as a lecturer on all periods of classical music as well as the musical theater for many organizations, both in the Boston area and farther afield.

Irene Buck Service to Arts Education Award

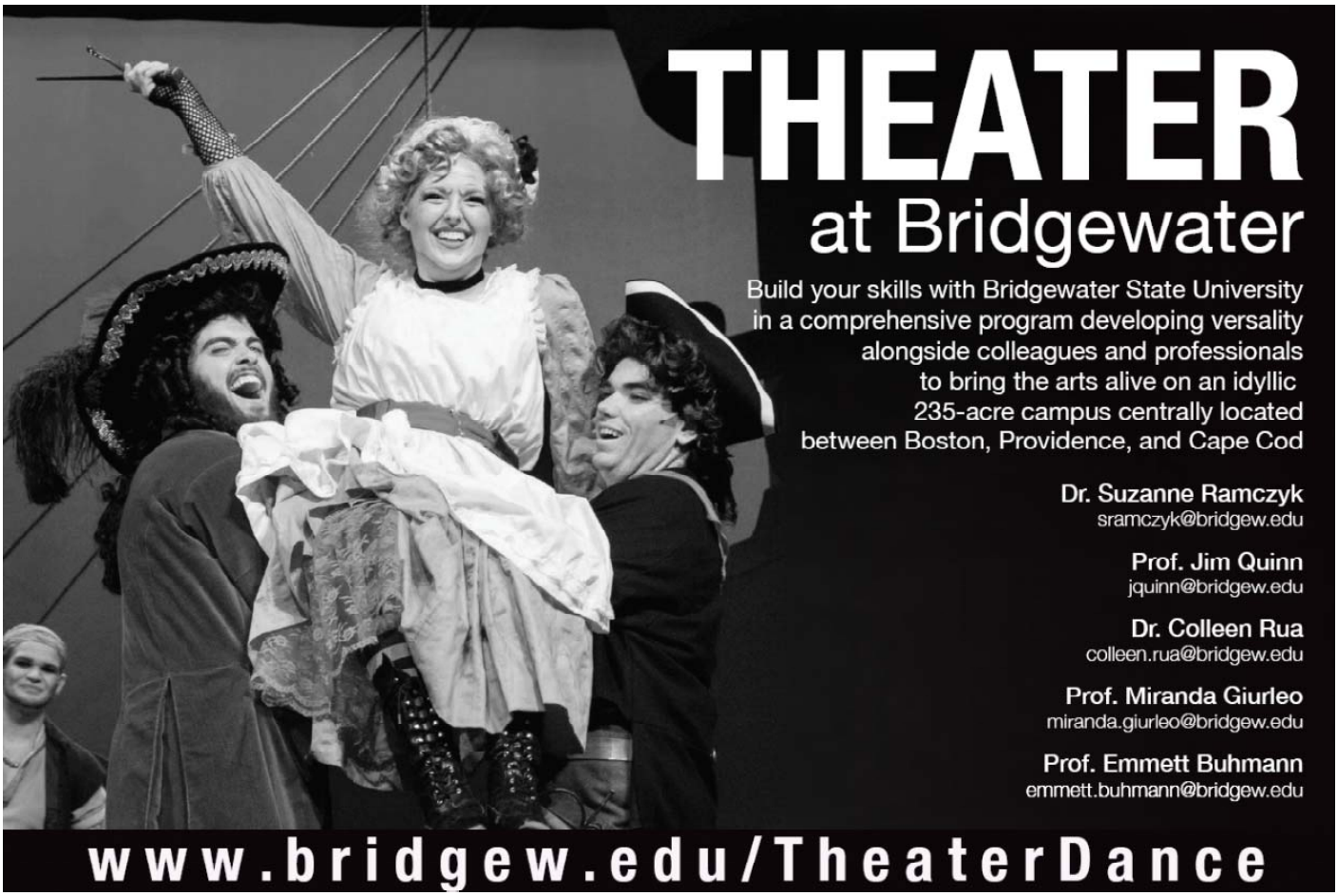
Noreen Diamond-Burdett, Milton Public Schools, Director of Fine Arts and Applied Arts

This award honors an individual for distinguished and prolonged service as an advocate for arts education. The recipient exemplifies commitment and service to, and support of the arts, and arts-education communities. This award is selected by the A|L Networking and Advocacy Leadership Team.

Dr. Noreen Diamond Burdett, in her 39th year in the Milton Public Schools, received her A.B. from Emmanuel College, and her Master's and Doctoral degrees from Boston University, School of Fine and Applied Arts. Dr. Burdett is the Director of Fine & Applied Arts in the Milton Public Schools, overseeing the K-12 music, visual arts, and family & consumer sciences departments. She conducts two in-school choruses, five after-school choruses, and is the music director for the annual musical at Milton High School. She also teaches in the Music Education department at The Boston Conservatory.

She has been actively involved in the Massachusetts Music Educators Association serving on the Board as President, Secretary, High School representative, and Chair of the Program Leaders Council (Formerly Administrators in Music Education AIME), All State Conference, TRI-M, and MMEA Awards. At the district level she served as MMEA Eastern Chairperson and Southeastern Secretary. She has been the Choral conductor for SEMSBA and district festivals, and has been the choral accompanist and choral manager for All-State and district festivals. She also served on the Executive Board as Membership Chair for the Massachusetts Alliance for Arts Education, one of Arts|Learning's predecessor organizations.

She has received the MMEA Lowell Mason Award, MMEA Distinguished Service Award, MAAE Champion of Arts Education Award, Milton High School Outstanding Teacher Award, and MMEA Visionary Leadership Award.



Publicly Nominated Awards

Kathy Tosolini Excellence in School Administration.

Richard Saunders, Director of Music PK-12, Somerville Public Schools

This award honors a school administrator for: (1) support for, and commitment to, high-quality arts education programs; (2) leadership in promoting arts education and building community support; (3) incorporation of the arts into overall school/district education reform efforts; and (4) support of opportunities for multicultural and interdisciplinary learning. The recipient will be an active advocate for the arts and show outstanding leadership and rapport with students, teachers, parents, and the community

Rick Saunders is a transformative, inspirational leader who has guided thousands of students to participate in making music, not just listening to it on their phones. Since he became Music Director nine years ago, the music department has become the heart of many students' educational experience.

Every student, regardless of family resources, can learn to play an instrument – and most do! From tiny enrollments before he became director, Somerville now has 2300 students actively participating in the instrumental program. He has

- developed multi-cultural offerings through partnerships with an Afro-Brazilian group;
- introduced intensive string instruction through El Sistema-style programs;
- brought professional musicians into the schools to perform regularly;
- invited the community and parents into dozens of performances
- eliminated auditions for performing groups, which still compete successfully at regional events
- brought student performances into the community at festivals and senior centers;
- developed high school courses ranging from programs for special needs students to Advanced Placement
- offered Summer String Camp to hundreds of students
- developed a K-12 curriculum with high standards for understanding and multi-cultural competence
- brought 50 Tufts students into the schools as music mentors.

He believes in, and creates the possibility of, "the accessibility of music making for every student, regardless of prior experience or 'aptitude'." Students rise to the challenge and

learn to achieve with joy.

One parent wrote: "Rick Saunders believes that music literacy is the birthright of every child, regardless of class or income level… He knows that the health of our nation, and peace in the world, depend on our making art together, not just consuming it."
Every email from Mr. Saunders ends with this inspiring message: "This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before." - Leonard Bernstein

Outstanding Community Arts Education Collaborative in Dance:

Dance in The Schools, Brighton, MA; Erica Sigal – Coordinator (Collaboration with the Cambridge Public Schools)
This award honors organizations and individuals who have developed model arts collaborative programs between school and community cultural resources. Recipients show evidence of superior teaching and interdisciplinary planning, professional involvement and leadership beyond the classroom, incorporation of arts into local educational reform efforts, including the use of State and National Arts Standards/ Frameworks, stimulation of community support, providing opportunities for multicultural learning, and ability to communicate effectively about the arts.

Dance in the Schools has taken place annually in the Cambridge Public Schools (CPS) since 1995 and at no cost to the students. It started as DanceMonth in the Schools, part of DanceMonth in Cambridge each May, under the direction of Rozann Kraus, Dance Complex founder. DanceMonth in the Schools was administered and funded by the Dance Complex through 2008 when DanceMonth ended. The program was renamed Dance in the Schools (DIS) by Erica Sigal, Coordinator. The CPS Visual and Performing Arts Department has contributed financially to the program since its inception and became the only funding source once DanceMonth ended in 2008. Grants have been awarded over the past 5 years, enabling the program to reach more classrooms. Dance in the Schools maintains a minimal budget and is coordinated single-handedly by Ms. Sigal.

Dance in the Schools expands children's learning through kinesthetic, physical modalities, involving them both actively and interactively via dance. It helps children develop their ability to focus in school, think creatively and cooperatively, innovate, and problem-solve.

"The dance [flamenco] will … enable my students to participate in a shared experience meant to build classroom community." - Elika Fredrickson - JK Teacher - Amigos School

"I learned a new song people sometimes sing in West Africa - 'Welcome! And peace to you!' I sang it to my mom and showed her what it (the dance movements) looked like." - Anonymous Student

Research on the impact of movement and dance has demonstrated measurable gains in "cognitive skills and capacities for critical thinking, problem solving, creativity, and innovation; personal capacities for self-regulation, self-efficacy, self-expression, and self-motivation; and social and civic capacities for communication, collaboration…"
http://www.artsedsearch.org/students/research-overview

Distinguished Arts Educator Advocate Awards

These awards recognize arts educators for: (1) demonstrated leadership in advocating for a specific arts discipline and overall arts education; (2) superior teaching in one of the four

disciplines of dance, music, theatre, or visual arts; (3) creation of model arts programs and partnerships; (4) use of Massachusetts Arts Curriculum Framework and National Standards for Arts Education; (5) use of arts and cultural resources; and (6) support of opportunities for multicultural learning and interdisciplinary planning.

Dennis Wrenn Distinguished Music Educator Advocacy Award

Jane Dufault (Music & Integrated Arts), retired, Westport Public Schools

Jane Dufault began her teaching career over 40 years ago. She continues to serve as an active leader and supporter for music education in Westport following her retirement, chairing the Music Boosters, working to mentor current arts educators and raising funds to expand arts options for students. This nomination recognizes Mrs. Default's four decades of dedication to the children and families Westport, MA, her innovative professional vision, and an outstanding commitment to creative learning.

Jane began her professional career in Fall River, MA as a middle school music and chorus teacher. In 1977 she moved to Westport to teach K-5 music, chorus, recorder and musical theater. Fourteen years later her focus changed to an integrated arts approach. She developed a program with grades K-4 over the next 8 years. Westport adopted a full-day kindergarten in 2000 and Jane Dufault developed a comprehensive integrated arts program that provided music, visual arts, drama and creative movement for students. The program flourished, connecting the arts with MA state frameworks, expanding student creativity, and enhancing the learning of both students and educators. Students wrote and illustrated books. Videos of musical and theater productions were created and sent home for parents to learn about the methods used in teaching standards in the curriculum. Parent engagement and communication was central to Mrs. Dufault's work. The annual art show featured visual art, music and writing on display throughout the school environment and placed in student portfolios.

Jane Dufault never stopped learning, getting her MA in Music Education in 1986, building her knowledge of technology, working with the Music Educators Association and many community organizations. She developed a three-day artist-in-residence program, bringing puppeteers to work in the elementary school for the past 6 years. Jane also serves as volunteer for local theater and dance programs that encourage students and is an active member of St. John the Baptist Church Choir.

Distinguished Visual Art Educator Advocacy Award

Stacy Lord, Art Teacher, Worcester East Middle School, Worcester, MA.

Stacy Lord is a K-12 certified Art Educator in the Worcester Public School System, and she has spent the last 12 years teaching at Worcester East Middle School. Stacy is a graduate of Anna Maria College with a Bachelors of Fine Art in Art Education, and earned a Post-baccalaureate certificate from The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

One area that shows Stacy's uniqueness is her passion and love for the arts, which does not stop with instruction in her classroom. In 2002, she helped co-found stART on the Street, Central Massachusetts' largest arts and music festival that brings over 60,000 people to a one-day cultural event. Stacy is an active member of the National Art Education Association, having presented over the past several years at the NAEA annual national convention. Currently, she is the Eastern Region Director-Elect for the Middle School Level. Stacy also sits on the Board for the Massachusetts Art Education Association as the Middle Level Director and is an active participant in the state conference committee.

Stacy's Professional Learning Network (#ArtsEd #PLN) on Twitter is now a leading venue for Art Educators from all over the world to collaborate and grow as individuals while deepening their breadth of knowledge within art education. In 2010, she was appointed to the Arts Education Advisory Council and sits on the Editorial Advisory Board for SchoolArts magazine. For a sneak peek into her classroom and her student's work you can visit *stacylord.blogspot.com* - where she truly believes in 'The Power of Art".

In 2014, Stacy was awarded a fellowship to participate in the *Art of Science Learning's* Worcester Incubator for Innovation. Most recently, Stacy was selected for NASA's SOFIA Airborne Astronomy Ambassadors (AAA Cycle 3) to study Infrared astronomy. The documentary Mixing Art & Science which chronicles the event will be available later this year.

Supporters:

MA Dance Education Org. congratulates the 2016 awardees! madeodance.org

Congratulations to the 2016 A|L Awardees. *The Dance Complex.* dancecomplex.org

Congratulations from *The Celebrity Series of Boston*. celebrityseries.org

Outstanding Parent Arts Advocate Award

Fanfare! for Music, Parent Support Group, Harvard Public Schools, Harvard, MA; Sharon Schmidt, president

This award honors a parent or parent organization for demonstrating (1) outstanding support for the arts; and (2) exemplary leadership in promoting arts education in schools and building community support.

"Fanfare! For Music" is a non-profit association of parents and community members organized exclusively for educational purposes. "Fanfare" provides financial support for the Music Department educational curriculum at the Harvard Public Schools in the Town of Harvard, Massachusetts and for students to participate in curricular or extracurricular music education activities while attending or upon graduating from the Harvard, MA Public Schools. This support includes, but is not limited to: sheet music; instruments; infrastructure for the Harvard Public Schools Music Department; musical educational programs for Harvard Public School students; music programs for Harvard Public School students; speakers; performers; transportation/food/lodging to/from music events; and other curriculum enrichment or musical activities as determined by "Fanfare" Board members.

"Fanfare! For Music" was nominated to receive an Outstanding Parent Advocate Award by the music education professionals in the Harvard Public Schools. Over the twenty-five plus years of its existence, "Fanfare" board members have been unwavering in their support for music education endeavors in the Harvard Public Schools, and they have developed a reputation in the community for being eloquent and dynamic music education advocates. The group has also been recently recognized by the Massachusetts Music Educators' Association with a Music Advocacy Award. The resultant programs in music curriculum enrichment, fully-instrumented musical ensembles in the schools, travel to music events and festivals, the development of a comprehensive sheet music library for large ensembles and soloists, and the constant support for the maintenance of a high quality, diverse music education curriculum in the Harvard Public Schools are just some of the results of the work of "Fanfare."

School of Excellence Award

The Sage School, Foxboro, MA. Marie Leary, Interim Head of School, and Danielle A. Bazinet, Performing Arts Teacher/Arts Department Chair

This award recognizes individual schools that have done an outstanding job of making the arts an essential part of education by including two or more of the following components: (1) teaching all the arts (dance, music theatre, visual arts) as specific disciplines; (2) providing imaginative learning environments; (3) including parental involvement; (4) promoting learning about other cultures; and (5) encouraging community connections.

The Sage School is an independent school for academically gifted children grades PreK-8. Students at the Sage School study all of the arts disciplines, including visual art, dance, music, and theater. All forms of the arts are offered to students in grades Pre-K-6. In grades 7 and 8 they may choose from a variety of arts electives within each arts discipline. Students in grades 5-8 may be members of our award winning after-school musical theater program.

Interdisciplinary learning is a key component to the school's curriculum and arts classes are often connecting to other disciplines throughout the school. Emphasis is placed on collaborative learning, the creative process, and worldly connections; with the goal of developing a lifelong appreciation for the arts. A conscious balance is created between teaching the skills and content of the arts along with an emphasis on interdisciplinary learning, with a strong focus on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics).

Our Arts Department is dedicated to a philosophy of constructivist teaching and learning, which we measure through our students' creation of unique and personal demonstrations of their learning. We emphasize the ambiguity of "right" and "wrong," the development of lifelong work, the artistic habits of mind, and the importance of process over product.

Good Neighbor Award in Theatre

WRCC Players, West Roxbury, MA, Bill Jacob, Founding Director

This award is designed to honor organizations or individuals who have gone out of their way to offer artistic, logistical, technical, moral, or financial support for arts education to thrive in their community.

The WRCC Players is a local community children's theatre group located in West Roxbury, created and sponsored by the Roche Community. Operating continuously since 1997, it is the only theatre production program for young people offered by the Boston Centers for Youth and Families. It is also the least expensive theatre production program for young people in the Boston metropolitan area.

The WRCC Players (ages 8-18) and their associate group, the Pee Wee Players (ages 4-7), rehearse and perform classic musical theatre productions every year at the West Roxbury Educational Complex Auditorium. Auditions are open, and everyone who signs up gets a part, until the limit of 90 is reached. For more than ten years, the WRCC Players have operated at capacity. A small artistic staff, some alumni teenage assistants, and dozens of parent volunteers collaborate with Bill Jacob, the founding director to mount polished, family friendly theatrical entertainment for local families. The group rehearses in the evenings and on the weekends over the course of three months, performing each play twice for sold out or near-capacity crowds of 800+ each year.

For most of the Players, participation is a yearly event, and many Players have risen in the ranks from Pee Wees to full-fledged Players over the course of a dozen or more years. What sets the group apart is the sense of community and support that is palpable among the children and volunteers. Each year, a new crop of Players tries their hand at the leading roles, and last year's leads take their place again in the chorus. It is a true ensemble, participating for the love of it, accepting challenges, taking risks and gaining confidence and a sense of accomplishment in the process.

Arts|Learning Board of Trustees, 2015-16

About Arts|Learning

Arts|Learning believes that the arts have the power to transform education. When the arts are at the center of the core curriculum, students develop the 21st-Century skills they need to lead fulfilled lives and to experience greater success in college and the workplace. Arts|Learning exists to be a catalyst in that transformation. Our mission is to develop and advocate policies, practices, programs and partnerships for a new level of excellence in pre-K–college teaching and learning, in and through the arts.

Founded in 1999 as a non-profit organization, Arts|Learning is the unified voice for arts education in Massachusetts, bringing together a large variety of constituencies interested in quality education in and through the arts. We bring years of experience and expertise to bear on arts education, programming, services, and advocacy. We believe this is best accomplished through the intersection of our three areas of focus:

• Convener • Networking and Advocacy • Teaching and Learning

For more information about Arts|Learning, please visit our website at www.artslearning.org. Inquiries may be sent to info@artslearning.org, or P.O Box 483, Medfield, MA 02052.

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Please consider becoming an active
Arts Education Advocate
by giving your support to Arts|Learning.

You can help by:

- Becoming a Member
- Making a Donation of any amount
- Volunteering to serve on a committee

Please check out these opportunities on our website: www.artslearning.org. Thank you!

Networking and Advocacy Leadership Team, 2015-16

The Networking and Advocacy Group of Arts|Learning is led by a Leadership Team of individuals from across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts who represent the arts-teaching workforce. This includes K-12 arts educators and administrators, teaching artists, arts education and cultural organization representatives, those in higher education and research, legislators, parents, business leaders, and funders. A|L advocates for quality arts education programs across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and acts as an umbrella organization for various constituencies and professional arts education associations who support the arts and arts education.

Since 1984, the A|L Networking and Advocacy Group (previously the Massachusetts Alliance for Arts Education, founded 1981) has recognized exceptional individuals and organizations who advocate for the arts in order to ensure that every child in Massachusetts receives a high-quality arts education. Through the A|L annual "Champions of Arts Education Advocacy" awards ceremony, over 260 arts educators, schools of excellence, school administrators, school committees, parent advocates, legislators, community organizations, cultural institutions, and businesses have been honored. Award nominations for most awards may be made by any member of the arts and cultural community, and winners are selected by A|L's Awards Committee. Some awards, such as the Irene Buck Service to Arts Education, the Legislative Leadership, and Media Support for Arts Education are nominated and selected by the N & A Leadership Team. The Oddleifson A|L Award is nominated and selected by the Arts|Learning Board of Trustees.

For information about A|L membership, please visit:
http://www.artslearning.org/member-2/

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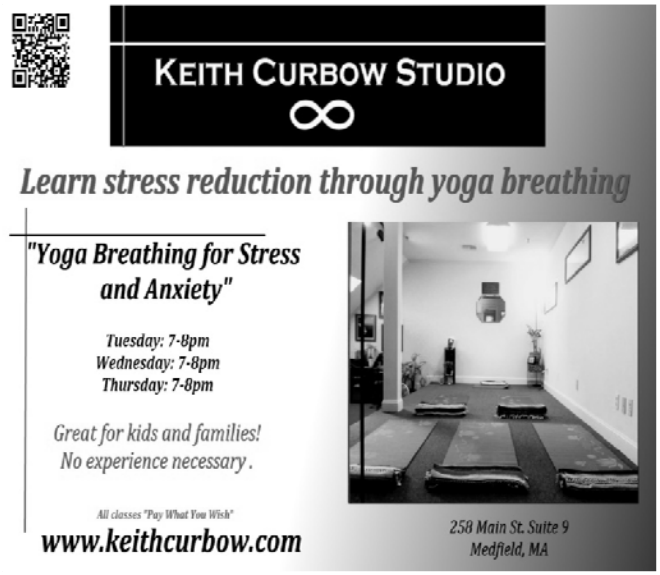

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