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September 2017

Dear School Administrator,

We are pleased to announce the 69th annual New York State Art Teachers Association conference will be held at The Double Tree by Hilton, Binghamton, New York, November 17–19, 2017. The annual conference draws over 600 professionals representing K-12 art educators, higher education art educators, museum educators, and commercial vendors. It provides the largest and most diverse professional development opportunities available to New York State art educators.

This year's conference **ART CONNECTING COMMUNITY: Creating a Dialogue for Communication and Change** will explore the powerful role art education plays in developing the full potential of all students. Art making pulls together ideas from many disciplines; transforms them into new ideas through multi-layered approaches and processes. The current research in learning and brain development continues to emphasize creative thinking, critical thinking and self-discipline to work in both collaborative and independent settings. These skills are deeply embedded in the teaching and making of art.

Conference opportunities include four general sessions over ninety workshops, that provide interactive learning through hands-on engagement and introduce the most current technologies, art curriculum and standards, assessments, and advocacy materials available. All program events focus on high quality art education content that can be applied immediately to teaching and learning. This year's general session keynote speakers include American fabric sculptor, dancer and performance artist Nick Cave, artist and educator Rachel Branham, Dr. Julia Marshall, Professor of Art Education at San Francisco and Dr. Jessica Fridrich, Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Binghamton University.

In this era of high stakes testing, we know the arts are critically important in developing human potential in our students. I ask your encouragement and support for your art educators in advancing their knowledge and professional skills, by providing release time for their participation and support for conference registration, travel and lodging.

Further information about **ART CONNECTING COMMUNITY** and other programs is available at www.nysata.org.

NYSATA looks forward to providing your art educators a valuable and timely professional experience.

Thank you for your leadership as we work toward ensuring a total quality education for all students.

Sincerely,
Sharon Ciccone

President, New York State Art Teachers Association