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September 2018

Dear School Administrator,

We are pleased to announce the 70th annual New York State Art Teachers Association conference will be held at The Adams Mark Hotel in Buffalo, New York, November 16– 18 2018. 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 **TRANSFORMATION, A New Era Art Education.** will explore the powerful role art education plays in developing the full potential of all students. Art making pulls together ideas from many disciplines and transforms them into new ideas through multi-layered approaches and processes. The current research in learning and brain development continues to emphasize the importance of 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 one hundred 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 Art Educator Dr. B. Stephen Carpenter of Penn State, conceptual artist Mark Dion, Buffalo based artist Julia Douglas and Executive Director of the Martin House Restoration Cooperation.

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 **TRANSFORMATION, A New Era in Art Education** 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