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Dear School Leader:

Every teacher in your school plays an essential role in serving all students and supporting the overall school community, especially arts educators. These professionals are problem-solvers and creative thinkers who not only deliver on artistic learning outcomes but also on social-emotional learning and broader achievement. The New York State Art Teachers Association (NYSATA) understands that educators need to continuously develop new skills and instructional approaches to address the ever-changing needs of diverse populations of students from pre-K to university level. This is why we are pleased to announce the gathering of approximately 500 professionals within and around New York State for the 2025 NYSATA conference taking place in Binghamton, NY November 21-23, and a special pre-conference event on eliminating bias and developing equitable practices on Thursday, November 20, 2025.

The annual NYSATA Conference is a comprehensive opportunity for all educators engaged in the visual arts, design, and media arts to experience exemplary models of best practices and methodologies supported by research. A carefully reviewed and curated array of professional learning opportunities will be provided at this event through approximately 100 interactive sessions, providing the largest and most diverse professional development opportunities available to New York State art educators. This year's theme, Navigating the Waves, pertains to the ability to develop resilience through creativity, imagination, and emotional expression.

Art Education engages human cognitive and emotional capacities, providing the opportunity for students to activate their voice and find a place in the world. The content of the annual NYSATA conference is indispensable for addressing visual arts, design, and media arts curriculum, instruction, assessment, and leadership. The program provides 100% educational content that can be applied immediately to help advance your school-wide goals. Participants will connect with a vibrant community of hundreds of professionals representing art specialists and teachers of the visual arts, school administrators, university professors, pre-service educators, researchers, and museum educators—all with the common goal of supporting student learning through arts education.

In this era of critical change, we know the arts are vital in developing human potential in our students. I ask for your encouragement and support for your art educators in advancing their knowledge and professional skills, by providing release time and support for conference registration, travel, and lodging. Thank you in advance for any support you might provide for participation by one or more members of your faculty. Further information about Navigating the Waves is available at <http://www.nysata.org/2025-conference>. Learn more about the Thursday preconference event at www.nysata.org/preconference. Please accept my gratitude for your leadership as we work together to ensure equity and access to a quality, well-rounded education for all students.

Sincerely,

Kelly Verdi, President, New York State Art Teachers Association