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ASSOCIATION

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 serve ever-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 2024 NYSATA conference taking place in Binghamton NY November 22-24, and a special pre-conference event on cultivating creative minds on Thursday, November 21.

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, *Artistic Intelligence*, pertains to the ability to create and understand art. It involves skills related to creativity, imagination, and emotional expression. This type of intelligence engages human cognitive and emotional capacities. This content is indispensable for successfully 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 thousands 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 *Artistic Intelligence* and other programs is available at <http://www.nysata.org/2024-conference>. Learn more about the Thursday preconference event at [www.nysata.org/preconference](http://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,

Carol Ann Pinkans, NYSATA President