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TO: District Administrators, Curriculum and Instruction Directors, Principals

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SUBJECT: DPI Fine Arts Resources and Statewide Conference Attendance

Thank you for your work and dedication to the school communities you serve. In your role to support the education of the students in your care, I also understand you are focused on the continual building of professional capacity for the school staff. Several opportunities are available to help in this pursuit. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction provides many resources in instructional pedagogy, news, and events for content areas. For the fine arts content areas of art and design, dance, media arts, music, and theatre, there are websites highlighting instructional methods and news, as well as WI DPI Google Arts Educator Communities to encourage online collaboration. Please share these resources and visit the Fine Arts and Creativity Education newsletters and the Fine Arts Professional Development site.

In addition to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Fine Arts and Creativity Education websites, online communities, and newsletters, there are a few statewide conferences for you to consider for your fine arts staff. These include:

- **Alliance for Wisconsin Theatre Education** – Milwaukee, September 30, 2016
- **Wisconsin Art Education Association Conference** – La Crosse, October 20-21, 2016
- **Wisconsin School Music Conference** – Madison, October 26-29, 2016

These annual gatherings are the largest professional development opportunities scheduled statewide for educators engaged with the arts in learning. Conference opportunities often include the sharing of effective arts instructional strategies and assessment methods, in-depth standards reviews, the latest research, integration of technology, and inclusive arts practices.

As educators, we know that our roles to support the development of student skills and knowledge need a solid foundation of our own professional expertise. The resources available through the Department of Public Instruction, as well as the statewide professional arts education conferences, are incredible resources for staff to utilize. I am asking for your encouragement and support of your art educators in building their knowledge and professional skills by providing release time for their participation in a statewide conference within their content area.

Thank you for your partnership in fostering a comprehensive education for our children and for supporting the continual building of professional capacity in our educators.