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TO: District Administrators, Curriculum and Instruction Directors, Principals

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SUBJECT: DPI 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, standards, news, and events for content areas. For the arts content areas of art and design, dance, media arts, music, and theatre, There are websites highlighting instructional methods and new standards for art and design, dance, music and theatre. Please share these resources and visit the Arts and Creativity Education newsletters and the Arts Education Professional Development site.

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

- Alliance for Wisconsin Theatre Education – Virtual Conference, August 12, 2020
- Wisconsin Art Education Association Conference – Virtual Conference, October 20, 2020
- Wisconsin Choral Directors Association – Virtual Conference, Milwaukee, January 15-16, 2021
- Wisconsin Dance Council – Virtual Town Hall, July 18, 2020
- Wisconsin High School Forensic Association – Virtual Theatre Directors' PD, November 19-21, 2020
- Wisconsin School Music Conference – Virtual Conference, October 25-31, 2020

These annual gatherings are the largest professional development opportunities scheduled statewide for educators engaged with the arts in learning. The sessions scheduled 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.