



Main Office: 495 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena CA 91101 P: 626-578-9315 F: 626-578-9894 www.artsed411.org
Sacramento Office: 1121 L Street, Suite 510, Sacramento, CA 95814 P: 916-440-1855 F: 916-448-7801

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 5, 2009

Contact: Amy Heibel
(415) 359-4851

Alliance for Arts Education Unites Local Leaders

(Tuolumne, CA) -- A group of Tuolumne civic leaders, educators and businesspeople will convene early Friday morning, May 8, 2009, from 7:30 to 9:30 am for a special meeting of the Tuolumne Alliance for Arts Education. The meeting is organized by the California Alliance for Arts Education, and spearheaded by local County Office of Education Superintendent, Joe Silva, Second District Supervisor Paolo Maffei, and Central Sierra Arts Council Board President, Bob Casey.

The purpose of the gathering is to activate a core group of local leaders committed to the principle that arts education is an essential component of a quality education that every child deserves.

In the midst of California's current budget crisis and the consequences for public education, the Alliance is focused on ensuring that every child in Tuolumne County receives a complete education that includes instruction in the arts. *"Tuolumne County boasts a fertile arts environment in a rural setting,"* said Superintendent Joe Silva. *"Our students have the unique opportunity to develop an interest in and appreciation of the arts through personal, hands-on experiences. It doesn't get better than that."*

Arts Council President, Bob Casey, said, *"The Central Sierra Arts Council has supported and sustained the Arts Reach to the Schools Program for over 17 years. We understand that it takes the schools plus the community to bring meaningful experiences in the arts to all students."*

The local effort in Tuolumne is one in a series of pilot projects the California Alliance for Arts Education is sponsoring throughout the state to build support for arts education. At the event, the Alliance will present evidence of the benefits students draw from arts education, including better school attendance, overall improvement in performance in all academic disciplines, lower dropout rates, and the development of skills such as critical thinking, flexibility and innovation required for future economic success.

"We know the arts are fundamental to a well-rounded education and help students develop vital 21st century workforce skills that will serve them for decades to come," says Laurie Schell, executive director of the California Alliance for Arts Education.

The meeting will take place at Birdie's at Mountain Springs Golf Course on May 8, 2009. Doors open at 7 am.

More about the California Alliance for Arts Education: *The Alliance is the only statewide organization that brings together all primary constituencies for arts education, including arts organizations, K-12 teachers, professional teacher associations, state and local education departments, professional development providers, parents, PTAs and community leaders. Our shared mission is to promote, support and advocate visual and performing arts education for preschool through post-secondary students in California schools.*

Press contact:

Press interested in attending the event, obtaining photos or video footage:

Amy Heibel

amy@artsed411.org

(415) 359-4851