



## Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**April 11, 2006**

### **THE KENNEDY CENTER ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION NETWORK AND NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCE RECIPIENT OF THE 2006 AWARD**

#### **Dorchester School District Two Board of Trustees Summerville, South Carolina**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts today announced that Dorchester School District Two, Summerville, South Carolina has been chosen to receive the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network (KCAAEN) and National School Boards Association (NSBA) Award. This district was singled out for their outstanding support of high-quality arts education. School boards were nominated by KCAAEN State Alliances for Arts Education and state school board associations.

The award will be presented on April 11, 2006 at the National School Boards Association's annual conference in Chicago, Illinois. Since 1989, this prestigious award has nationally recognized 37 school boards in 23 states for their support of arts education.

A national review panel is convened to select the school district that receives the honor each year. School districts selected for this national honor must demonstrate support for all four artistic disciplines in their arts education program including visual arts, music, theater and dance. Instruction and programming must also be available for all students throughout the district. The ways in which the school district develops collaborative partnerships with the cultural resources available in the community is also an important consideration in reviewing nominations.

#### **DORCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT TWO, SUMMERVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

As demonstrated by test scores on the rise and escalating community support, Dorchester School District Two is boosting learning, sparking enthusiasm for knowledge and creating more life-long learners among its 19,424 students.

The Dorchester School District Two Board of Trustees is dedicated to changing the attitude toward arts education. They continue efforts to bring arts education away from the periphery of the curriculum. Over the past five years, the Board of Trustees and the District Fine Arts Coordinator have implemented an "Arts as Core Academic" program with success. Standards-based arts instruction is delivered sequentially

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and comprehensively from early childhood education through grade 12 by highly qualified arts teachers in collaboration with classroom teachers, community arts organizations and volunteers.

The Board of Trustees demonstrates their commitment to arts education financially. In addition to budget allocations for arts teachers and supplies, the school district provides supplemental funding for extra-curricular programs such as marching band, color guard, All State Band and Orchestra and many others. No student in Dorchester School District Two is prevented from participation in the arts due to their socio-economic status. Both high schools have well-equipped fine arts wings. All of the middle schools have similarly high quality arts education facilities.

Elementary students, grades kindergarten through fifth grade, receive instruction by arts specialists in music and visual arts. Dance is taught as a component of physical education. In recent years, the number of arts courses taught per week has increased to a full five-day sequence. In high school, the arts curriculum deepens further. The coursework is sequential and standardized. Courses are no longer general. They are based on specific content.

In each of the school district's middle schools, students are also offered content-based arts courses. Advanced students in seventh and eighth grade may elect to expand their arts courses into band, chorus and visual arts. In 1996, Rollings Middle School of the Arts was opened and serves as a model of the arts as a core academic subject. Rollings is the district's highest achieving school on state mandated tests. The Rollings Middle School received a Creative Ticket National School of Distinction Award in 2003 from the Kennedy Center.

Dorchester School District Two partners with the Spoleto Festival USA, an international arts festival in Charleston, South Carolina, the Moja Festival, a national Africa-American arts festival and with Sculpture in the South, a national sculpture exhibit. These partnerships expand opportunities for students including artist residencies, performances, master classes and showcases for student work.

The Dorchester School District Two Board of Trustees has insured quality arts education for all students. All sixteen schools in the district have received the highest rating of Excellent for opportunities in the arts.

#### **THE KENNEDY CENTER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

The Kennedy Center has established one of the most extensive arts education programs in the world—reaching more than 11 million people across the nation each year. Young people, teachers, families, and the general public take part in innovative and effective education programs initiated by the Center, including performances; distance learning and Internet based programs; professional development opportunities; dance, theater and music residencies; courses and classes in the performing arts, and

competitions for young actors and musicians. The Kennedy Center’s Education Department is committed to promoting higher standards for national performing arts education programs and policy.

**KENNEDY CENTER ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION NETWORK**

The Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network (KCAAEN) is a coalition of statewide, non-profit organizations working in partnership with the Kennedy Center to support policies, practices, and partnerships to ensure that the arts are a critical and essential part of American education. The KCAAEN is a component of the Kennedy Center Education Department.

**NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION**

Founded in 1940, NSBA is a not-for-profit federation of associations of school boards across the United States. NSBA represents the nation's 95,000 school board members that govern 14,890 local school districts serving the nation's more than 47 million public school students. Virtually all school board members are elected, the rest are appointed by elected officials.

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**PRESS CONTACTS:**

The Kennedy Center: Rae Bazzarre, 202/416-8441, rbazzarre@kennedy-center.org  
Dorchester School District Two: Pat Raynor, 843/873-2901, praynor@dorchester2.k12.sc.us  
National School Boards Association: Barbara Hunter, 703/838-6153, bhunter@nsba.org