



## Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

April 23, 2007

### **THE KENNEDY CENTER ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION NETWORK AND NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCE RECIPIENT OF THE 2007 HONORABLE MENTION**

#### **Letcher County Board of Education Whitesburg, Kentucky**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts today announced that the Letcher County Board of Education in Whitesburg, Kentucky has been chosen to receive the first ever Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network (KCAAEN) and National School Boards Association (NSBA) Honorable Mention. This district was singled out for its outstanding support of high-quality arts education. School boards were nominated by KCAAEN State Alliances for Arts Education and state school board associations.

A national review panel is convened to select the school district that receives the honor. 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.

#### **LETCHER COUNTY**

The Letcher County Board of Education in Whitesburg, Kentucky, has made great strides in arts education even though they are faced with the difficulty of being in a rural setting with few arts organizations and no theaters, concert halls or museums nearby. To assist in obtaining the funds needed to support the county's arts programs, the Board of Education works with the Letcher County Education Foundation. Through this foundation the community helps to make sure that every student is exposed to the arts. Although Whitesburg is traditionally a coal mining community, the Board of Education has partnered with many local artists and arts organizations, as well as with arts centers at the state level, such as the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts.

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

For more than 30 years, the Kennedy Center Education Department has provided quality arts experiences through performances, residencies, workshops, conferences, career development programs, symposia, and on-line and print resources. In the past year, the Center's education programs have directly impacted more than 11 million people across the nation. The mission of the Education Department is to foster understanding of and participation in the performing arts through exemplary programs and performances for diverse populations of all ages that represent the unique cultural life and heritage of the United States. For more information, visit the Center's web site at [www.kennedy-center.org/education](http://www.kennedy-center.org/education).

### **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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