ArtsWeek Program Earns NAEA Co-Sponsored Academy Status

_New courses for 2011 include Philadelphia Mural Arts: Storytelling + Basic Techniques_

PHILADELPHIA (May 17, 2011)—ArtsWeek, an intensive studio arts program for K-12 teachers offered by the Professional Institute for Educators at the University of the Arts, is one of just three programs in the nation to earn "co-sponsored academy" status from the National Art Education Association (NAEA). Co-sponsored academies are programs that the NAEA identifies as offering "substantive professional development opportunities for members" based on NAEA Goals for Quality Art Education.

Among the new courses is Philadelphia Mural Arts: Storytelling + Basic Techniques. Jane Golden, executive director of the City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program, will welcome participants in the course with a brief talk providing insight into the community-building power of murals and how murals can be a teaching resource for a wide range of diverse learners. Students will also embark on a special trolley tour of the city's most notable murals and consider how to create murals within their own school environments.

ArtsWeek will be offered at three locations this summer: the Wayne Art Center in Wayne, Pa. (June 27 – July 1); the GoggleWorks Center for the Arts in Reading, Pa. (July 18 – 22); and the University of the Arts in Philadelphia (Aug. 8 – 12). During each program week, K-12 teachers earn graduate-level credits by selecting an intensive studio class from a range of options, including ceramics, design, drawing, fibers, glass fusing, jewelry, landscape painting, printmaking, watercolor painting and more.

Participants discuss art history, consider student learning in the arts, produce work based on techniques learned in class, engage in critique sessions and display final work in a closing exhibition. In addition, participants submit projects applying these skills to their own classroom settings. Content is designed to provide educators with a quality art experience to inspire them and their students.

The University of the Arts is the nation's first and only university dedicated to the visual, performing and communication arts. Its 2,400 students are enrolled in undergraduate and graduate programs on its campus in the heart of Philadelphia's Avenue of the Arts. The institution's roots as a leader in educating creative individuals date back to 1868.

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