



NJDOE News

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Student Artists Shine in 21st Annual Governor's Awards in Arts Education

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The New Jersey Department of Education and the Alliance for Arts Education/NJ are co-sponsoring the 21st annual Governor's Awards in Arts Education tomorrow at the War Memorial Building in Trenton.

Highlighting this year's showcase of student talent will be live performances by singers, dancers and instrumentalists and a slide-show of award-winning visual art. Participating dignitaries in the ceremony will include Maud Dahme, president of the State Board of Education, Ellen Schechter, assistant commissioner for the Division of Academic and Career Standards and Janice Lake Betts, president of the Alliance for Arts Education / NJ.

"The State Board of Education is committed to the arts by its inclusion as one of the seven core curriculum content areas," said Dahme. "The arts serve as an integral part of our students' lives. We feel that all students benefit from immersion in the arts."

Schechter congratulated the winners, saying, "I commend the students and educators in the arts for their talent, energy, commitment and perseverance as they excel in their discipline."

"Anyone who has experienced the thrill of performing or creating would agree that our lives are enriched by arts experiences," she continued. "Not only do the arts promote diversity and understanding of other cultures, but they can increase self-esteem as well."

Awards will be presented to 80 students and 22 educators. Award winners will receive medallions from Assistant Commissioner Schechter and State Board President Dahme.

The Governor's Awards in Arts Education were designed to promote awareness and appreciation of the arts by recognizing the outstanding arts achievement of students, educators, and other leaders in New Jersey. The students were selected by national and statewide organizations for their exemplary work in creative writing, music, theatre and the visual arts. The educators were selected to receive awards from several cooperating national and state arts organizations for their exceptional commitment and contributions to arts education in New Jersey.

"Creativity and the quest for artistic excellence are alive and well in the young people and the visionary leaders we honor," said Janice Lake Betts. "The Governor's Awards in Arts Education remind us that the arts are transforming our schools because they touch the hearts and minds of our students and lead them towards greatness."

The following is a list of cooperating arts organizations that sponsored and planned the ceremony:

Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics
Alliance for Arts Education / NJ
Art Educators of New Jersey
Art Administrators of New Jersey
Institute for Arts and Humanities Education
New Jersey Association of School Administrators
New Jersey Council of Teachers of English
New Jersey Department of Education
New Jersey Forensic League
New Jersey Governor's School of the Arts
New Jersey State Council on the Arts
New Jersey Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance
Playwrights Theatre of New Jersey
Speech and Theatre Association of New Jersey
VSA of New Jersey

NOTE TO EDITORS AND REPORTERS: Media coverage of this event is invited and encouraged. Attached is a list of students and educators who will receive the 2001 Governor's Awards for Arts Education. Also attached is a list of students who will perform at the ceremony, beginning at 4 p.m. tomorrow in the War Memorial Building, Trenton.