



NJDOE News

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Local Interest

Student Talent Takes Center Stage at 27th Annual Governor's Arts Awards

Outstanding student artists, arts educators and leaders in the arts will gather at Lawrence High School on Wednesday, May 23, 2007 for the 27th Annual Governor's Awards in Arts Education. The event is a celebration designed to promote awareness and appreciation of the arts, and to recognize the creativity, talent and leadership exemplified by the award winners.

"The students and educators we honor each year represent the very best efforts in the public schools to teach our young people the many joys of the arts and how the arts can enhance their lives," said Gov. Jon S. Corzine. "The honorees deserve our utmost praise and respect for their accomplishments."

[Governor's Awards in Arts Education Recipients](#)

The event will begin at 4:30 p.m. in the auditorium of Lawrence High School with a slideshow of award-winning visual art. The awards ceremony will feature remarks by Commissioner of Education Lucille E. Davy, Secretary of State Nina Mitchell Wells, State Board of Education President Arnold Hyndman, and Paul Jennis, a well-known New Jersey portrait artist.

"The arts are a vital component in the academic careers of our young people," Commissioner Davy said. They have the power to sharpen our ability to express ourselves, think critically, and develop a concept of aesthetics. I salute this year's winning students and their mentors who have demonstrated so successfully all that they have learned."

This year's awards will be presented to 22 educators and 98 students. The students were selected by national and statewide organizations for their exemplary work in creative writing, speech, dance, music, theatre and the visual arts. The educators will receive awards from several cooperating national and state arts organizations for their exceptional commitment and contributions to arts education in New Jersey.

[Program](#)

Award winners will receive medallions from State Board of Education President Hyndman. The ceremony will also include live student performances in music, theatre and dance.

"Friends of Teen Arts is proud to partner once again with the Department of Education on this inspiring project," said Debbie Conway, president of the board of trustees of Friends of Teen Arts, Inc. "This recognition of student skills and creativity supports their dreams and aspirations."

Support for this year's event was provided by:

- Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics
- Art Educators of New Jersey
- Art Administrators of New Jersey
- Dance New Jersey
- Friends of Teen Arts, Inc.
- Institute of Arts and Humanities Education
- New Jersey Council of Teachers of English
- New Jersey Forensic League
- New Jersey Governor's School of the Arts
- New Jersey Music Educators Association
- New Jersey Performing Arts Center
- New Jersey State Council of the Arts
- New Jersey Department of Education
- Playwrights Theatre Association of New Jersey
- Speech and Theatre Association of New Jersey

VSA arts of New Jersey

NOTE TO REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS: News media may cover this event at Lawrence High School ([see directions attached](#)). News media are also encouraged to cover the award-winning students and teachers in their home schools. For more information, call the Office of Public Information, 609-292-1126.