

**From:** [Debra Waldorf](#)  
**To:** [University Governance](#); [moekker-kmoeller@ku.edu](mailto:moekker-kmoeller@ku.edu); [Lequesne, Remy D](#)  
**Subject:** Please do not remove Art Education from KU  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 13, 2021 9:24:19 AM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am a 1975 University of Kansas Art Education graduate who has recently retired from 25+ years of teaching. It was both a joy and a passion! I primarily taught 9-12 graders and I was inspired by what I could share with them every day. I won several teaching awards while I was teaching at Blue Valley West and was nominated by students and faculty colleagues alike for recognitions I never even sought. Such an honor. Obviously I was well trained and was a very proud alumni.

To my dismay and surprise, I have slowly seen the students choose K-State over KU. After doing a lot of questioning of these students as to why they would choose K-State, they replied that the orientation process and celebrations in Manhattan was way superior to that of the orientation at KU. If your numbers are falling and that is what has put this program on the chopping block I hope you would review why students are choosing K-State of KU.

I am deeply shocked that a university of this caliber would remove such an important part of the education department. I could go on and on about the benefits to all students that visual arts offers but I am sure you are aware of the brain science, general all sound well being, and pure joy visual arts bring to all of our lives. My biggest victories were those all AP students who would wait until their senior year to take an "easy credit" course in drawing. Almost all would remark that it was one of the toughest but most rewarding classes they had ever taken. They were challenged in a very different way and the appreciation of their time in the art room will stick with them.

I would hope that you will not remove this opportunity for those interested in carrying on such a noble part of education. It is deeply disturbing that there is a possibility that students would be forced to attend lesser universities and colleges to find their pathway to such a rewarding career.

I humbly, but adamantly, submit this appeal for your committee to consider.

Sincerely,  
Debra Waldorf