

From: [Dr. Trina Harlow - UCA](#)
To: [Lequesne, Remy D](#); [University Governance](#); [Maude, Marshall](#)
Subject: Keep Art Education at KU
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 9:36:44 AM

Hello Remy, Kathy, and Marshall,

I implore you not to end the art education program at the University of Kansas. A university such as KU should be a leader in arts education in the state. KU is known for many things, as is Lawrence, and one of them is a high standard in the arts. Research proves that art education is so important in the lives of children and adolescents and in all of our lives. The art education program in a university is typically a smaller program and the reason for that makes sense. There is typically only one art teacher inside an elem school but could be 50 elem teachers; one art teacher inside a small-medium sized middle or high school but many secondary teachers....maybe 4 or more English or science teachers. The university art ed program will probably always be smaller and probably should be. To those who would rather look at numbers on a spreadsheet than quality of program/teacher, I say you are lessening the quality of education of Kansas kids. Parents are already coaching sports teams in many communities. Is the school art program going to have volunteer uncertified untrained teachers or parents as well? Visual arts education helps us produce leaders for the creative economy and ALL of industry. And, it contributes in many, many significant ways to the education of our students, providing skills in thinking and reasoning that transfer to every other subject and to life. Data on the benefits of art education is readily available online. Research shows kids who take arts classes do better on standardized tests, have less behavior problems in school, and drop out rate is lower. I could go on but I'll stop there. As a leader in education in Kansas and the largest university in Kansas, if you discontinue the art education program you will be causing a trickle down effect that will stunt the arts in Kansas, therefore decreasing the educational benefit to all of education by the arts, and even decreasing the quality of life for Kansans. I was at Kansas State University coordinating their art education program and built it to such a reputable program. When I received my PhD I had to go elsewhere to obtain a tenure track position. Kansas means a lot to me. It is my childhood home and where my family lives. Art education means a lot to me as I have spent the last 28 years as an art educator. The arts are powerful in our lives - sometimes we don't even know how powerful they are - just take a look around you when you walk across KU campus at how much effort has been put into art and design everywhere you go. Please do not end the art education program at KU.

Peace,
Dr. Trina Harlow
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NAEA Public Policy and Arts Administration President
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