

**The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
announces**

**Danville Independent School District Board of Education
of Danville, Kentucky
Receives \$10,000 Kennedy Center and
National School Board Association Award**

National Award Recognizes Outstanding School Board Support of the Arts

(WASHINGTON)—The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts today announced that the Danville Independent School District Board of Education in Danville, Kentucky, has received the 31st annual Kennedy Center and National School Boards Association (NSBA) Award. The award, which includes a \$10,000 prize, was presented on Saturday, March 30, at the NSBA’s Annual Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Since 1989, this national award has recognized individual school boards for their outstanding support of arts education. The Danville district was chosen from nominees around the country for its support of high-quality arts education.

“Commitment from every level of the community is necessary in order to provide an accessible, quality arts education to every student. From an invested school board to the teachers and parents, the impact of all stakeholders is felt through each child’s educational journey.” said Mario R. Rossero, Senior Vice President of Education at the Kennedy Center. “Within our national outreach programs, we see first-hand that arts learning not only inspires and transforms students but also supports them in becoming life-long learners and engaged citizens. The long-standing enthusiasm and remarkable support from the Danville Independent School District Board of Education has been inspiring. And we are pleased to recognize their dedication.”

The Kennedy Center and NSBA award honors the work of the 2018 school board, led by Board Chair Paige Matthews, Vice Chair Susan Matherly, Steve Becker, Lori Finke, and Troy McCowan. Arts education continues to be the centerpiece of a comprehensive education for all students in Danville Schools. The Board has shown a strong decades-long commitment to the arts by continued funding of district level Director of Arts Education and Technical Director positions designed to administer arts education opportunities and coordinate all programming for the Gravely Hall Performing Arts Center, the district's theater for student, community, and statewide performances. Co and extra-curricular visual and performing arts activities are supported through fund-raising, district funds, partnerships, and donations to ensure that all students who wish to participate have the opportunity. Additional commitments include ensuring all K-5 students are engaged in dance, theater, music, and visual arts by certified arts specialist teachers and at the middle and high school level, courses are designed for both exploration and advanced study in choral and instrumental music, theater, and visual arts.

The district is committed to a wide variety of arts partnerships throughout the state and community which has included The Norton Center for the Arts where over 800 tickets were provided for students to see school performances during the 2017-2018 year through the A.C.T.S. program; the Frank X Walker Literary Festival in partnership with Citizen's Concerned for Human Relations, which has engaged students in creative writing and theater performance while honoring the work of alumnus Walker, former Kentucky Poet Laureate; and field trips free of charge for two grade levels and all students with disabilities at the Community Arts Center, among others.

The Danville Independent School District Board of Education intends to use its award to continue funding and enhancing arts education opportunities districtwide including providing high quality professional learning opportunities for teachers in music and theater to strengthen and expand instructional capacity, lay the foundation for a new program in elementary performing arts, and provide an equipment fund for high school visual arts and instrumental music.

Each year, a national review panel selects the recipient school board from a pool of nominees from across the country. School boards selected for this national honor must demonstrate support for four of the five core disciplines in arts education programs: visual arts, music, theater, dance, and media arts.

Instruction and programming must be available for all students throughout the district. The ways in which the school board develops collaborative partnerships with the cultural resources available in the community are also an important consideration in reviewing nominations.

About Education at the Kennedy Center

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts sets a national standard for arts learning. Working through model programs and a nationwide network of partners, the nation's cultural center harnesses the power of the arts to address education challenges, accelerate best practices, and uplift citizen artists. Across all its programs, the Kennedy Center is committed to increasing accessible, inclusive opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to participate in, learn about, and learn through the arts.

Highlights of the 2018-2019 season include the 50th anniversary of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, which impacts thousands of college-aged theater students across the country; the expansion of *Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child* into two new communities; and *Long Way Down*, a Kennedy Center-commissioned work based on the young adult novel of the same name. On September 7, 2019, the Kennedy Center will open the REACH, an immersive arts and learning center with significant space and programming for arts education.

As an essential component of the living memorial to President Kennedy, the Center's Education programs utilize the arts to embrace President Kennedy's ideals of service, justice, freedom, courage, and gratitude. By cultivating the citizen artist in everyone, the Kennedy Center brings the arts and creativity to the center of our lives. For more information, please visit kennedy-center.org/education/.

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