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Cal Poly Central Coast Center for Arts Education To Present Summer Institutes for Teachers

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly’s Central Coast Center for Arts Education will host two summer professional development institutes for K-12 teachers interested in learning new ways to integrate the arts into their classrooms.

Organized by the university’s Liberal Studies Department, the workshops will be led by experienced professionals and some of the nation’s top educators.

The first institute, Arts and Literacy, will be June 28-July 1. It will provide instruction and materials to help K-6 teachers integrate the arts in the Open Court and Houghton Mifflin scripted reading programs used by local schools, according to Liberal Arts Professor Susan Duffy. “Teachers will participate in day-long standards-based workshops in dance, music, visual arts and theater. Assistance with specific integration in scripted K-6 reading programs will be provided, along with lesson extensions and evaluation rubrics.”

Workshops in the first institute will be led by Marilyn Berrett, nationally recognized dance educator from Brigham Young University; Steve Venz, K-12 music advisor for the Los Angeles Unified School District; and award-winning educators Art Sherwyn and Judi Garratt.

Berrett is the author of “Dance and Its Extension into Children's Literature,” which appeared in the proceedings of the Dance and the Child International Conference. She is the driving force behind the creative dance lesson-plan program “Dance is B.E.S.T.,” used throughout elementary schools in Utah.

Venz served as the music facilitator for the California Arts Project workshop “Pathways to Literacy” and has performed and recorded with such
artists as B.B. King, Russell Malone, Adam Makowicz, Terence Blanchard, Boyz-II-Men, Paul Overstreet and the Gatlin Brothers, as well as the U.S. Air Force Band. He has also composed musical scores, arranged and produced music for such movies and television shows as “JAG,” “Girlfriends” “Wasteland,” Star Trek: Voyager” and “Paycheck.”

Sherwyn has received the prestigious American Disney Teacher Award, the California High School Art Educator of the Year award in 1997-98, and the National Art Education of the Year Award for the Pacific Region in 1999-2000.

Garratt is known throughout Southern California as a theater director, producer, educator, professional mime and workshop leader. She is a recipient of the Professional Artists in Schools Lifetime Achievement Award, and has worked with Performing Tree of Los Angeles for 21 years. She has appeared in television commercials, Disney television specials, and in film.

Registration for the workshop is $75 and includes lunch each day. Support for the institute has been provided by the California Post Secondary Commission.

The second institute is titled “Feast Your Eyes” and is part of the Agricultural Literacy and the Arts program. The two-day program on Aug. 14 and 15 is designed for teachers in grades 4-12 and will examine rare fruit crops in California with an emphasis on their production, marketing and use in restaurants.

“The hands-on workshop is designed from an interdisciplinary perspective and will open new paths for teaching agriculture and getting students to view agriculture in new ways,” Duffy said. “The activities are aimed at the ‘art novice’ working in real classroom situations.”

Background materials and complete standards-based lesson plans for both art and agriculture will be provided so that teachers can apply what they learned beginning in the fall.

Cal Poly Professor Emeritus Joseph Sabol will be a featured speaker and will discuss several rare fruits grown on the Central Coast.

“Participants will learn to discuss symbolism in still-life paintings featuring rare and exotic foods and will learn simple techniques to achieve realistic results in drawing their own still-life pictures,” Duffy said.

On the second day, teachers will paint bisque-fired plates, then travel by bus to the Culinary Arts Academy in Paso Robles, where they will learn design elements and theories used by chefs and culinary institutes to craft new approaches to food preparation and presentation.

A buffet lunch will be prepared by Culinary Arts Academy staff members. Participants will have an opportunity to test their own skills in
applying design principles to food preparation.

Registration for the August workshop is $50 and includes lunch both days and all materials. The institute is supported by the Kellogg Foundation and the California Food and Fiber Futures Project.

Both the July and August arts education institutes will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Cal Poly’s Chumash Auditorium in the University Union.

For more information and a registration form, call (805) 756-2935.

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