



Virginia **Art** Education Association

To promote, support and advance visual arts education through professional development, leadership, research and service.

Dear School Administrator:

I am pleased to announce the 2017 Virginia Art Education Association Professional Development Conference will be held in Reston, VA, November 2 - 4, 2017. This year's theme is "Imagination Takes Flight".

This annual gathering of nearly 500 professionals (representing professors of higher education, school district administrators, art specialists and educators of the visual arts, museum educators and prospective art educators) provides the most comprehensive opportunity for professional learning of art education in the Commonwealth. The VAEA has hosted over 50 professional conferences and this year promises to be an event not to be missed.

Conference opportunities include over 140 sessions that showcase the latest in research and practice and provide interactive learning through hands-on workshops. All program events are 100% art education content that can be applied immediately to teaching and learning. Our keynote this year is Kate McClanahan, Director of Federal Affairs for the Americans for Arts. Her talk will focus on advocacy and she will answer questions on politics surrounding federal arts education funding in the current administration.

As educators, we know that in this climate of high stakes testing, the arts are critically important in developing human potential in our students. I ask your encouragement and support of your art educators in further advancing their knowledge and professional skills by providing release time and support for their participation, travel and lodging.

The preliminary program is available on the VAEA website – www.vaea.org. Feel free to contact us if you are in need of further information.

We look forward to providing a valuable and timely professional experience for your art educators!

I thank you for your leadership as we work together toward ensuring a quality education for our nation's youngest citizens — our children and youth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Conti". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Linda Conti
VAEA President