

PREPARING TO ATTEND

Once you have approval to attend, prepare properly so you can demonstrate you received the benefits you ensured your administrator would be available.

- Review all conference details and materials.
- Register by October 8, 2017 to take advantage of the “earlybird” discount.
- Make your hotel reservation early to ensure you receive the lowest possible prices, allowing you more time for educational opportunities, as well as networking with colleagues.
- Check the VAEA website to review the conference schedule and begin selecting the sessions you wish to attend while making time in your schedule for working your way through the Vendor Hall. With discounts and giveaways you won’t find anywhere else, shopping in the Vendor Hall can significantly stretch your budget and enhance your resources.
- Note your Region and Division meetings to help you make connections and begin networking with other professionals.
- Don’t be shy about introducing yourself to a presenter following a workshop.
- Become a VAEA Facebook “fan” or follow us on Twitter for the Conference and begin to interact with others online.
- Meet and consult with other colleagues who will attend from your district and decide which sessions each will attend so the whole team can cover more educational opportunities and share the information when you return home.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Keynote speaker, **Kate McClanahan**

The Vendor Hall,
The Artisans’ Gallery,
Guest Artist Martin Cervantez,
The Awards Breakfast,
meetings with your colleagues
and over 150 Sessions!

FOLLOWING UP AFTER CONFERENCE

After the Conference write a concise summary of the many learning opportunities that will benefit you and your students and how you will use the experience and the contacts you made to benefit your school/district. It’s important to write this one-page summary soon after the conference, while the experience is still fresh. Submit the summary to the person who approved your attendance. Thank them in writing for the opportunity to participate. Once your administrators understand the value, they will be more likely to approve your future participation.

Meet with your colleagues and share what you learned from the sessions you attended.

And finally, apply what you learned in your classroom and enjoy a renewed approach to delivering quality art education to your students.

MAKE YOUR CASE . . .

To participate in
**YOUR Professional
Development
Conference**



November 2 - 4, 2017

TODAY'S

economic climate makes getting approval and support to attend conferences and conventions more challenging than ever.

As a professional art educator, you provide students with critical 21st-century skills that are essential to student achievement and success. Staying on top of emerging research and practices within the field is more important than ever.

To secure support from your principal or supervisor, it's important to show how your participation in the VAEA Professional Development Conference relates directly to the objectives within your school learning community and contributes to your professional development.

Do more than ask for approval - consider submitting a more formal request that demonstrates how your participation directly relates to the strategies and objectives of your school. Articulate the value of your continued professional development that benefits your students, your school, and your own professional growth.



ARTICULATE THE NEED

Below are several quick tips for articulating the need for continued professional development that benefits your students and your entire school community:

- Write down 3-5 of the most important goals and strategies being addressed in your school today - what is the primary focus?
- Think about how you contribute to those goals and strategies. How does your work as a visual arts educator advance student learning and the mission of your school? Make a list of the contributions made to your school's goals and strategies through the visual arts program.
- Review the conference schedule to better understand how the workshops on emerging research, technologies and classroom practices will support your school and district goals. Identify the sessions you plan to attend and make note of individuals you would like to meet while there.
- Provide a summary of the funding you will need, including Conference registration costs, travel and housing. Consider that parent organization funding or local grants may be available for you to attend.

BRING IT BACK

This is what you can expect to gain and bring back to your school:

- Timely and proven practices for helping students achieve 21st-century goals of developing creativity and innovation.
- Greater expertise in interdisciplinary learning - making connections between art curriculum goals and skills students need.
- Networking possibilities and opportunities to participate in local Professional Learning Communities.
- Valuable resources, curriculum, and program ideas that will help you and your school meet the future collaboratively.

DOCUMENTING YOUR CASE

The following is an example of how an art teacher might make their case:

Our school's goal is to improve the overall academic achievement of each student. My professional contribution to this goal is to plan and deliver a quality art education experience for students that will ensure rigorous and meaningful learning. The VAEA Professional Development Conference is Virginia's largest professional development opportunity, exclusively developed for art educators.

Participating in exemplary professional development workshops and sessions with other pK-12 art educators, museum educators, university professors, teaching artists, and administrators offers a unique opportunity to collaborate and learn from other professionals in the field, as well as share our school/district successes.

There are numerous sessions specifically targeted to my professional development goals including strategies for enhancing student achievement, interdisciplinary learning, assessment, curriculum, and instruction. Additionally, I will have an opportunity to preview instructional resources and materials for purchase at special discounts not available elsewhere.

I appreciate your consideration for support that will allow me to participate in this professional development opportunity during the VAEA Professional Development Conference , November 2 - 4, 2017.