Educating the Creative Mind
National Endowment for the Arts

The National Endowment for the Arts has awarded Kean University an Art Works! grant to support Educating the Creative Mind, a professional development program to improve arts-based curricula for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students by helping teachers develop knowledge, skills and dispositions in an arts-based interdisciplinary curriculum. Dr. Lily Chen-Hafteck, Associate Professor of Music, is the creator and director of the project.

The project’s inaugural conference, held in March, 2010, was supported by a “Quality First Initiatives” internal award grant from Kean University. That conference was a great success in drawing public attention to the significance of arts education. The new funding from NEA supports the next phase that will make an impact on children’s lives – focusing on professional development and on reaching out to the schools, teachers and children.

Educating the Creative Mind aims to increase the awareness of the significance of the arts in children’s lives and education and to find ways to bring a well-rounded education to children. Brain research has demonstrated the significance of early brain plasticity, concluding that the absence of the particular forms of cognitive stimulation provided via music and dance in early childhood can have long-term adverse consequences for cognitive development. Young children naturally love the arts and therefore it is vital to provide them with ample arts experiences that will develop their life-long interest in the arts. Moreover, it has been found that the arts yield numerous benefits for student learning in both the arts and other subjects. But many preschool teachers are not confident in teaching the arts. Dr. Chen-Hafteck explains that teachers do not need to be performing artists to share enthusiasm for the arts and to create environments for children to explore, enjoy and participate in the arts, and to find ways to bring a well-rounded education to young children.

The first major project activity, Music, Arts and the Interdisciplinary Curriculum Institute, will be held at Kean University on Thursday and Friday, June 14 and 15, 2012.

RECENTLY FUNDED

UPCOMING EVENTS

ORSP Research and Funding workshops - AY 2013

New workshops will be offered in AY 2013. Topics include: Writing and Editing, Research Design, and Program Evaluation. Funding related workshops will also be offered.

The schedule for Fall 2012 workshops will be posted on the ORSP website in August.

ORSP RESOURCE GUIDE

The new Resource Guide and Policy Manual for Grants & Contracts is now available on the ORSP website. The Guide includes useful information to assist faculty and staff in their efforts to find, obtain and administer external funding support. The Guide is also a comprehensive reference that includes policies and procedures for all sponsored projects.

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