



**SOMETHING GOOD IS
HAPPENING IN ARIZONA!**

**Come see what Southeastern
Arizona Arts in Academics
(SAAA) has done
in Southern Arizona**

Funded through a grant from the U. S. Department of Education -
Professional Development for Arts Education Program (PDAE).

CULMINATING EVENTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2011

SAFFORD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

*980 S. 14th Avenue
Safford, AZ*

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2011

PHOENIX ART MUSEUM

*1625 N. Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ*

**IN ADDITION TO THE SAAA PROGRAM STUDENTS ART
BEING DISPLAYED AT THE AZ STATE CAPITOL
BUILDING, THEY WILL ALSO BE DISPLAYED FOR
VIEWING IN 22 OTHER LOCATIONS.**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 11, 2011

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**SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA ARTS
IN ACADEMICS (SAAA)**

The U.S. Department of Education made an investment of just under \$900,000 to fund a three year grant for an Arts Integration Model Program in Southern Arizona rural schools. Culminating events for this project are currently being planned for: **Thursday, April 28** in at the Safford Performing Arts Center, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in Safford, and **Wednesday, May 4** at 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Phoenix Art Museum in Phoenix, AZ.

Karen Husted is the Director of *The Arts for "Border" Children* and is the facilitator for the Southeast Arizona Arts in Academics (SAAA) professional development project. SAAA is a consortium of rural school which includes: Ash Creek School Elementary, Double Adobe Elementary, Fort Thomas Unified School District (the lead school district for the project), Mt. Turnbull Academy – Bylas, Naco and Willcox Elementary and Middle Schools. The project is a unique concept to bring arts integration through professional teaching artists to the SAAA schools. Teaching Artists include:

- Susan Corl – Mixed Media Visual Folk Artist from Patagonia;
- Kimi Eisele – Creative Writing/Dance & Movement from Tucson;
- Paul Fisher – Theatre/Drama and Media from Tucson;
- Alex Jones - Visual and Media Artist from Tucson;
- Josh Schachter - Photographer and Media Artist from Tucson;
- Carrie Starr – Music from Ganado, AZ;
- Alida Wilson-Gunn - Theatre and Drama from Tucson.

The rural schools in Arizona have had a significant need for a program such as SAAA due to several factors including distance, isolation and limited funding making it difficult for students to be exposed to the arts and to work with master artisans. In addition, teaching staffs were not prepared to teach the arts or incorporate art forms into their regular curriculum; and in most cases, art was not present as part of the school culture. SAAA has built an infrastructure that will sustain art culture through efforts of the teachers, students, school administration, staff and community support.

As the grant ends, SAAA has accomplished the following:

1. Teachers demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to engage children and youth in learning the arts and have incorporated the arts into regular classroom instruction.
2. Students now demonstrate increased skills, knowledge, and understanding of the various forms of art and have realized improved academic achievement, social maturity and respect for others, especially those from different cultures.
3. Schools and communities have the infrastructure and cultivated the commitment to ensure sustainability.
4. Teachers and Teaching Artists have acquired skills to mentor others in arts integration.