USU Seeks Partners for New Arts Community Engagement Program

Utah State University is recruiting host schools, community partners and university students to participate in its new USU ArtsBridge program.

Using the arts as a powerful engagement tool to teach core subjects, ArtsBridge is a nationally recognized research-based arts education initiative that provides high quality arts education and arts enrichment to K-12 classrooms and community organizations, said Laurie Baefsky, USU’s new ArtsBridge program director.

This fall, USU became the 23rd university in the United States to host an ArtsBridge America program. Through the Caine School of the Arts and the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, USU ArtsBridge provides service-based instructional scholarships to qualified university students and hands-on, long term arts residencies in classrooms for K-12 students as well as for community groups throughout Cache, Box Elder, Franklin and Rich counties. The program can be especially beneficial to elementary teachers without specialization in the arts, Baefsky said. USU ArtsBridge can also serve to supplement and expand existing programs in visual art, dance, drama, music, creative writing and the digital arts.

Baefsky brings a strong background in the performing arts, arts education and arts administration to the new USU program. She served with the Virginia Arts Festival as director of development research from 2005-07 and as its education director from 2001-05. A former flutist with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra in Norfolk, Baefsky was also on the music faculty of Christopher Newport University, New Port News, Va., and Virginia...
Wesleyan College in Norfolk from 1990-2005. She continues to perform locally and play occasionally with the Utah Symphony in Salt Lake City.

For information on USU ArtsBridge or to become involved, contact Baefsky at (435) 760-4889, or by email at laurie.baefsky@usu.edu. Initial funding for the program at USU was provided by the Marie Eccles Caine Foundation.

Related links:

College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences
Caine School of the Arts

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Source: USU ArtsBridge