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From the President's Palette

Dear FAEA Members:

As the 2014 state art conference season was coming to an end, I had the opportunity to attend the New York State Art Teachers Association 66th Annual Conference. *Stand Up for Art Education* was the theme, and I often looked at that logo throughout the weekend and reflected on the deeper meaning of what it truly means to *Stand Up for Art Education*.



Each day, art educators around our state and nation stand up in front of many students ready to pass along their love of the Visual Arts, which will allow students of all ages to find their own creative voices. Educators often do that with limited funds, inadequate resources, large class sizes, short periods of time, and a general lack of support. Yet, each day, these educators return to their art rooms ready to give back and find ways to overcome the many obstacles simply because they love what they do, and believe in the very value of the Visual Arts as an important discipline that makes for a well-rounded student.

As you may remember, in 2012, FAEA aligned our strategic plan with that of NAEA organizing our plan into five key areas: Organizational Vibrancy, Research and Knowledge, Learning, Community, and Advocacy.

This past year in 2014, your Board focused on *Community*. In building and promoting a sense of community throughout our organization, our mission over the past year was to develop improved connections among members through continued communication outside of association events, student recognition programs, panel discussions, new teacher support, social gatherings, lesson plan and classroom strategy exchange, and mini-workshops.

Now as we look ahead in 2015, your Board has decided to focus on *Advocacy*. Our goal over the coming year is to solidify the sense of responsibility that both the members and

the association overall have to advancing awareness of the critical role that the visual arts play in a balanced curriculum by promoting parent, teacher, community involvement, as well as furthering established roles in the NAEA, Youth Art Month, and in working with local legislators and cultural organization.

We will continue to build on *The 25 Days of Advocacy*, which was created by the Advocacy Committee led by Bizzy Jenkins with members Mabel Morales and Pam Brown. It is our hope in the coming year that we will continue to find ways to Stand Up for Art Education and unite art and museum educators around our state so each of you will feel as though you are part of the whole; empowered and confident to continue your mission each time you Stand Up in front of your students in 2015.

As we move forward to a brand New Year, let 2015 serve as your Blank Canvas to a creatively successful year ahead. The FAEA Board is looking forward to working to find new ways to advocate for our field in the coming year. Together, we can continue to make a difference. Wishing you and yours a blessed holiday season!

To stand up for something: To actively defend a position and send a clear, public message of solidarity, support, approval, and encouragement. - Unknown

Yours in art education,



Karen Nobel
President, FAEA

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