

Executive Summary - FY 2011

ArtsNOW is dedicated to improving education by building the capacity of our teachers with professional development and resources. The professional development starts with a 2.5 day Foundational workshop for school teams training them to become key influencers throughout the school and school system. It continues with follow-up workshops, consultations, planning sessions, model teaching demos and curriculum resources (both print “Ignite Curriculum Guides” and video “Co-Trainer Workshop Videos”). Developed and delivered by Executive Director Pamela Walker Millice with five primary collaborators: Atlanta Ballet Centre for Dance Education, Emory University Department of Theater Studies, Georgia State University School of Music, the Savannah College of Art & Design/Atlanta and The National Consortium for Music-in-Education. The trainer team also includes two Program Directors: Dr. Maribeth Yoder-White and Darby Jones, as well as an additional 20+ other teacher leaders across the US.

ArtsNOW has secured State and National Credibility:

- Full support of Georgia Department of Education leadership with shared goals
- A National Arts in Education Leader has recognized ArtsNOW as having a “superlative professional staff implementing work of national significance”. The Music-in-Education National Consortium has welcomed ArtsNOW onto the National Board of Directors saying, “ArtsNOW are just the pioneering educators America needs to best serve every public school community in their quest for excellence in and through the arts!” Larry Scripp, Executive Director MIENC/ New York
- Our two National Lab Schools for ArtsNOW Professional Development are open for tours to demonstrate arts integration strategies implemented with students by local faculty in classrooms school wide. They include Auburn Elementary School in Barrow County and Hickory Hills Elementary School of Marietta City Schools.

ArtsNOW has grown to serve 16 school systems, directly impacting 700+ educators in the Foundational training. This results in a potential impact of an additional 7,500 teachers and over 101,000 children every day. School revenue is up 300% over just 3 years.

ArtsNOW Works! Continuous Improvement in Student Learning reported in our two National ArtsNOW Lab Schools:

- **BARROW COUNTY SCHOOLS: Auburn Elementary School** under the leadership of Principal Shawn Williams, demonstrated very strong results in student achievement on the 2009-10 Criterion Referenced Competency Test (CRCT). School wide scores reflected a 5% gain in reading, 4% gain in language arts and 7% gain in math. This is the first full year of school-wide ArtsNOW implementation. Auburn Elementary also experienced a significant decline in discipline referrals with 105 students sent to the office last year as opposed to 206 office referrals for 2008-09. The school administration attributes this decline in discipline referrals to engaging instruction as a result of implementing ArtsNOW teaching strategies. Auburn was selected as one of The Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals 2010 “School Bell” awards for implementation of innovative programs.
- **MARIETTA CITY SCHOOLS: Hickory Hills Elementary Arts Academy**, under the leadership of Principal Diana Mills, has also demonstrated remarkable strides in student achievement. Last year (2008-2009) was the first year of full implementation and we focused all professional learning activity on integration of the arts into math – school wide. The result in student success was unmistakably a result of teacher implementation of ArtsNOW teaching strategies all year long! On the 2009-10 Criterion Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) as their school wide scores reflected a 12.5% growth in math as compared to the prior year. Important subgroups saw similar gains as English Language Learners experienced 21% in math and children in the “economically disadvantaged” subgroup improved by 21.5% in math vs. last year. Hickory Hills was presented with a Title I monetary award for closing the achievement gap between economically disadvantaged and non-economically disadvantaged students in both reading and math. In addition, the Marietta City School System was recognized by the state as the Title I distinguished school system for medium-sized districts, with Hickory Hills as their identified school to share this honor.

We are looking for philanthropic partners of vision who understand that the demands on this 21st century require us to develop the confidence and skills of teachers to be their most creative in every single classroom, every single day! We want to (a) generate increased awareness of our work across GA and the US, (b) create a web based e-learning blended professional learning platform and (c) continue meeting the demands of educators with even more professional development offerings. As a 501 (c) (3), all donations are tax-deductible.

Thanks for your partnership.



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