



State of Arizona
Department of Education
Office of Diane M. Douglas
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Educator and School Excellence Division



July 25, 2017

Dear Arts Educators, Administrators, and Community Partners:

It is with the upmost pride and excitement that I introduce myself as your new Arts Education Specialist for the Arizona Department of Education. I am looking forward to meeting and collaborating with each of you. This is an exciting time for Art Education in our state. The ESSA rollout uniquely places the Arts in the center of a well-rounded education. I am honored to assist in this transition.

The mission of the Arizona Department of Education Arts Education Office is to provide support to Arts educators, classroom teachers, school and district administrators, and Arts stakeholders – including Arts and education organizations, community groups, and service organizations – so that every student has the opportunity to experience the power and beauty of the Arts, and the joy, creativity, and intellectual stimulation that instruction in the Arts provides. As part of our strategic vision for the 2017-'18 school year, I will work closely with arts agencies and schools to create a *unified revitalization* of values and goals for arts education, provide *content expertise* while continuously *creating arts opportunities* for our students, teachers, teaching artists, administrators, and policy makers. It is through these actions that the artistic literacy of our state will flourish.

It is my personal goal to champion the artistic development of our students and schools.

As your collaborator and convener, I'd like to share my history. I am a third-generation Arizona native having studied theatre at Mesa Community College, Interdisciplinary Arts and Performance at ASU West, and Expressive Arts and Education at Prescott College where I received a Master's degree in Humanities. With a background in theatre and dance, I have cultivated a professional career as a solo artist presenting original one-man shows across the state. In 2011, I began working as a teaching artist and have taught in numerous community and educational settings. In 2015, my career as an Arts Administrator began as I was appointed the Director of Arts and Special Events for Mesa Arts Academy, a small K-8 Title I Charter School centered in Arts Education. I look forward to utilizing my experience as a performer, a teaching artist, an arts research scholar, and an administrator to help shape the trajectory of Arts Education in our state.

Your creative work with our students is SO important. I am sincerely looking forward to this process of discovery and exploration with you! Know I am a resource, a partner, a guide, and facilitator available to you. I am confident that together, and through a unified voice and mutually agreed upon direction, we can create vibrant arts education classrooms and programs for EVERY Arizona student.

Yours in Collaboration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dustin Loehr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

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