



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



**Arts Education Program – School Excellence Unit**

Dear Arts Educators, Administrators, and Community Partners:

It has been nearly ten months since I began my tenure as your Arts Education Program Specialist for the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). During that time, I have enjoyed collaborating with you, facilitating conversations across the state and nation, and most of all, learning from you. It was often a phone call from one of you, an innovative grant application, a school performance, or a simple meeting that reminded me of the importance of our work: the artful and well-rounded education of each of our Arizona students.

Thank you for pursuing this auspicious goal alongside me.

I am humbled to announce that I have now begun a new venture as the Director of Arts Education & Title IV-A with the ADE. This new position will provide leadership for the new Title IV-A federal grant, which provides support for schools to implement activities supporting well-rounded educational opportunities, safe and healthy students and the effective use of technology. Gifted Education and Advanced Placement Programs have also been placed within this new program area here at the ADE. We will begin hiring for new Specialist positions soon within our new program area, as we work to build our new team. I encourage all who are interested to consider applying for these positions once they are advertised.

The work you have seen from me will largely continue, only now we will have the opportunity to build a team to help support and drive our mission and vision. We will continue to infuse the arts throughout Title I and our general school/community culture. We will still offer and share education opportunities for your teachers and students, and we will continue to build powerful relationships with our LEAs and partners.

It is my honor and privilege to serve you, and I look forward to many more years of continued service to you in this new capacity. Throughout the numerous conversations and trainings I have been privileged to conduct, one idea that I regularly offer is for our Arts Education community to embrace the opportunity of leadership. *Arts Instructors and Teaching Artists, take the dive and embrace the opportunity to lead:* join your local school board, become a school-site administrator or Principal, pursue opportunities to sit on a board outside the arts world. Doing so allows you to become the *change agent* our sector needs.

I am a performing artist that stumbled into teaching. I am an educator that longed for better leadership, so I became an administrator. I am the administrator who saw an opportunity to serve his native state and EVERY child and instructor in Arizona. I am your new Director of Arts Education & Title IV-A for the Arizona Department of Education.

Here's to new chapters, exciting creations, and the continued well-rounded education of Arizona's students!

Yours in Collaboration,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Dustin Loehr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath the name.

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