



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 18, 2016

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COCA HONORS DEBORAH LETO TODAY WITH “ARTS IS EDUCATION” AWARD

WHAT: [COCA \(Center of Creative Arts\)](#) will honor Deborah Leto, Principal of Mason Elementary School, with the Arts Is Education Award at the COCAedu Summer Institute for Arts Integration Opening Reception and Award Ceremony. Leto was selected to receive the award for her dedication to making the arts a part of every day at Mason and her partnership with COCA to change the landscape of education through innovative programs.

WHEN: TODAY, Monday, July 18, 2016 at 4:30pm

WHERE: COCA, 524 Trinity Ave., St. Louis, MO 63130

PHOTO

OPPS:

~COCA students performing a number from the upcoming musical *Memphis*.

~Award ceremony.

~Special guests including:

Kelly Pollock, COCA Executive Director

Tom Tobias, Arts Education Director, Office of College and Career Readiness, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Sean Layne, Teaching Artist, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

~COCA will have a photographer at the event and **can make images available upon request.**

ABOUT THE COCA ARTS IS EDUCATION AWARD:

COCA's Arts Is Education Award is given to an organization, individual, educator, school or district who has been an exceptional leader and advocate for ensuring that the arts are central in the education of young people throughout the St. Louis region, and who has played a key role in helping COCA positively impact school culture and advance student learning and engagement.

COCAedu SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR ARTS INTEGRATION

The 2016 COCAedu Summer Institute for Arts Integration, July 18–21, will provide educators with strategies for how to use the arts to connect to curricular areas, meet state core learning standards, increase student engagement, deepen student comprehension, and identify alternative assessment opportunities. Led by arts integration experts and coaches, workshops will let participants explore quality arts integration and give them the tools and strategies to feel confident using the arts across a variety of content areas. For more information about the COCAedu Summer Institute for Arts Integration, visit cocastl.org/summerinstitute.

ABOUT COCAedu

COCAedu is a nationally recognized model of excellence for arts education. Since 1992, COCAedu has provided arts programming to thousands of students and dedicated educators throughout the St. Louis region, breaking through economic and transportation barriers.

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ABOUT COCA

Founded in 1986, COCA is the fourth largest multidisciplinary community arts center in the country and a national leader in innovative arts education. With a mission to enrich lives and build community through the arts, COCA serves 50,000 people of all ages and skill levels, from enthusiastic amateurs to emerging professionals—all taught by a faculty of distinguished arts educators. We provide meaningful arts experiences in our own studios, gallery and theatres as well as in schools, community centers and corporate settings in order to build a vibrant St. Louis that is creative, connected and inclusive. To ensure diversity and inclusion in all of our programs we are committed to eliminating economic and social barriers to participation in the arts.