**2017 Tennessee Arts Academy**

**Participant Evaluation Written Comments**

I have never learned so much in such a short amount of time. What an invigorating experience for all! *Seth Tinsley, East TN Music Teacher*

I had an amazing experience at TAA! It brought together my love of education and theatre and truly inspired me to consistently use the arts in my classroom. It has made me more excited for a new school year than I have been since my first year of teaching!

*Elizabeth Scott, Middle TN Theatre Teacher*

TAA provided me with multiple opportunities to hear from arts leaders in Tennessee and across the nation. I can’t think of another venue that offers such a deep, engaging experience for leaders in the arts! *Brad Foust, West TN Arts Leadership Administrator*

This has been a fantastic experience! I have been recharged and my students will reap the rewards! *Janet Malone, Middle TN Visual Art Teacher*

I was not sure what to expect, but I was blown away by the impact this had on not only my teaching methods, but my passion for the craft. *Roy Denton, East TN Music Teacher*

Being on the “other side” for a whole week has refreshed, reinvigorated, and inspired me.

*Carol Ponder, Trio Track Participant*

I am a veteran teacher of 28 years and it was great to be reminded of things that I have forgotten, to learn new things and to be re-energized for teaching. *Barry Petty, Middle TN Music Teacher*

TAA is exhilarating, exhausting, exciting, educational and expansive. It affirms arts teachers as professionals and feeds our souls. Not only am I a better teacher when I leave – but a better person. *Nicole Arnold, Middle TN Theatre Teacher*

In all my years teaching in Tennessee, I have never been to a conference that galvanizes the arts community as effectively as the Tennessee Arts Academy. *West TN Arts Leadership Participant*

The faculty was outstanding. The week was fulfilling and educational. This professional development was perfect for my mind and soul. *Middle TN Theatre Teacher*

This was the best program I have every attended for the arts! *Amanda Tutor, West TN Visual Art Teacher*

Having professional development that educates, pampers, inspires and encourages is like finding a unicorn. Congrats! TAA is the cotton candy, glittery unicorn we have all been searching for! *Middle TN Theatre Teacher*

Amen, and Amen. *Gene La Loggia, East TN Music Teacher*

It was transformative…I learned things I can actually use in my classroom. *Riley Braem, Middle TN Theatre Teacher*

TAA is such an incredibly helpful, rejuvenating, and inspiring experience for arts teachers. What a perfect way to end my summer and begin a new school year! *Abbey Francis, Middle TN Music Teacher*

The instructors brought a passion and focused presence that both gave me invaluable tools, techniques, and ideas to take back to my classroom, as well as reinvigorated my love for the arts and my understanding for the purpose of the arts – to remember that we are never alone, even on an empty stage. *Courtney Primus, Middle TN Theatre Teacher*

Enlivening! Ready to get back in the classroom and try new lessons. *Allison Swanner, East TN Visual Art Teacher*

TAA Rocks and touches the soul It’s great for all young and old. *Cheryl Nelson, West TN Theatre Teacher*

As I have spoken with other TAA attendees it seems to be unanimous how rewarding and beneficial this experience has been. *West TN Arts Leadership Participant*

Thank you – so impressed with guest performances and quality instructors. Each teacher was awesome!! *Middle TN Visual Art Teacher*

I was hesitant at first, but my mind was changed. *West TN Theatre Teacher*

TAA is always a springboard for inspiration each new school term! *Lisa Benton, Middle TN Music Teacher*

I can’t thank you enough for this week. All three teachers were giving, humble, knowledgeable and good at teaching us how to teach their discipline. This is the best education value per dollar I have ever spent. In addition, the camaraderie in the classroom was enlivening, supportive and fulfilling. My cup is full! *Karen Joy Thomas, Middle TN Theatre Teacher*

I am so glad that I attended The Academy! I now have a huge toolbox of creative movement and drama strategies to use in my classroom. *West TN Theatre Teacher*

I feel like I am re-energized after attending TAA, and I feel like I’m not crazy when I am in the company of these artists! I am understood!! *Sara Layne, Middle TN Visual Art*

The TAA feels like a spa for arts teachers. *Middle TN Visual Art Teacher*

TAA is the real and only way for theatre teachers to get professional development and refresh the passion for what we do! *Middle TN Theatre Teacher*

Best professional development opportunity for teachers of the arts ever! *Middle TN Music Teacher*

The Tennessee Arts Academy is an outstanding opportunity to learn how to organize and implement, music, art, and theatre lessons in the curriculum. *D. Cameron Smith, Trio Track Teacher*

This event continues to inspire me year after year. I am eternally grateful to have the opportunity to participate. I leave inspired encouraged, affirmed and equipped to meet my students in the fall. Thank you!!! *Lynn Jung, Middle TN Music Teacher*

A great first year at TAA! Just the rejuvenation I needed for the upcoming school year!

*Middle TN Visual Art Teacher*

Tennessee Arts Academy never fails to provide top-notch training in the arts. I had such a good time in my classes! *Rachel Hudgins, West TN Music Teacher*

This was absolutely the best year yet! Theatre Clinicians were all outstanding educators and outstanding people. They were open and kind to all students. The talent of performances, including Bryce Pinkham, were outstanding. *Sara Lyn Archibald, West TN Theatre Teacher*

Instructors were awesome! I have been a teacher for 30 years and I learned more this week than I ever have before. *Kimberly Lundin, East TN Music Teacher*

This is always the best Professional Development of the school year. I get recharged regardless of the track I take. Every activity, person is warm and welcoming.

*Barbara Frantz, Trio Track Teacher*

This was the best refresher course I could have taken to return to work after 9 years at home! *Beth Hanson, Middle TN Music Teacher*

This week is rejuvenating, challenging, and so informative! *Molly Wineland, Middle TN Music Teacher*

This experience has inspired me to be more creative with my students. *Trio Track Teacher*

I walked away inspired for my next school year! *Roland Wilson, West TN Music Teacher*

This is my happy place. I look forward to it every summer! *Anne Snider, Middle TN Music Teacher*

If I did not get to come to the Arts Academy, I am not sure I could start my year.

*Lori Wortman, East TN Theatre Teacher*

The elementary music content was FABULOUS and performers and musers were perfect! *Middle TN Music Teacher*

As an instructor and educator new to the Arts Integration in the classroom, this was the best experience I could have had to the introduction of this medium for my students. It was hart-work but awesome!!! *LaRita Mitchell, West TN Theatre Teacher*

TAA is the most relevant, appropriate, & FUN of any other conference geared towards arts teachers. *Middle TN Music Teacher*

I am so thankful for the opportunity to come to the Arts Academy. It has been refreshing to discuss, learn from, and collaborate with so many like-minded individual with a shared appreciation on the importance of the Arts! *Arts Leadership Participant*

The elementary track for music was super applicable and enjoyable. *Susan Stumne, Middle TN Music Teacher*

This Academy is very professional and a vital asset to my profession. *East TN Music Teacher*

This week has enlightened me on more ways I can improve my level of advocacy for the Arts, and make myself more marketable for job opportunities in School and District Administration or Arts Leadership. *Nikkie Parker-Dunnewold, Arts Leadership Participant*

Coming to TAA always inspires and energizes me. *East TN Music Teacher*

The connections to the clinicians and their teaching is what keeps me coming back.

*Middle TN Theatre Teacher*

TAA is always top quality training that equips, encourages, and inspires! *East TN Music Teacher*

TAA has become an integral experience in my career. One of my favorite weeks of the year! *Tim Koly, Middle TN Music Teacher*

I can breathe again now that I have been re-inflated by attending TAA. *Middle TN Theatre Teacher*

What I learned and will apply to my classroom for next year from Christine Bass, was more than worth the price of TAA admission. *Merritt McElroy, East TN Music Teacher*