**2016 Selected Participant Evaluation Quotes**

For the first time in my 9 years in education, I felt truly appreciated and inspired!

-Nichole Guerrini, Middle TN Visual Art Participant

It is impossible to put into words what just happened this week – artistic, beautiful – Spiritual!

-East TN Music Participant

TAA is the Best In-Service in 37 years of teaching.

–West TN Visual Art Participant

I have travelled extensively for professional development and this is hands down better than anything I have been to. This first-time participant will be singing your praises far and wide! Love, love, love!!

-Katie Myers, Middle TN Theatre/Library Media Specialist

I was overwhelmed at the amount of wonderful ideas!

-Melissa Porier, East TN Music Participant

Thank you so much! I felt valued, appreciated and rejuvenated to teach for the new year. Magdalena Grzybowska, Middle TN Visual Art Participant

Absolutely - the absolute finest PD experience in my 35 years of teaching.

–East TN Theatre

I am inspired by the instruction and how relevant it is to my teaching! This has been the best experience and I can’t wait to come back. Thank you!

-Kaela Miller, East TN Music Participant

Reinvigorating and thought provoking.

– Middle TN Visual Art Participant

I wish I could stay here forever.

–Erica Collier, West TN Music Participant

I have never felt like what I did mattered or was appreciated as an instructor, like I was at this Academy.

-Jonathan Holland, Middle TN Music Participant

Spending a week being creative, enjoying the arts with like-minded people is wonderful!

-Middle TN Visual Art Participant

The classes were extraordinary! It gave me ideas I’m going to use in my classroom, met lifetime heroes, made friends with people in my content area, but more importantly made me feel appreciated and proud to be a music teacher.

–East TN Music Participant

Fantastic!

-West TN Visual Art Participant

Thank you for making us feel vital.

–Middle TN Theatre Participant

It renews my spirit!

-Sara Cochran, Visual Art Participant

The Arts Academy is a wonderful week of inspiration. I feel so loved and appreciated. This week further empowers me to have energy for the new year.

–Lisa Moody, Middle TN Theatre

I feel I have returned to the “mother ship!” As discouraging as our jobs can be, I always get my batteries recharged at TAA. I can never say thank you enough.

- Lisa Russell, East TN Music Participant

TAA refilled my art teacher fuel tank. I’m excited to teach my students what I learned this week.   
-Middle TN Visual Art Participant

Outstanding efforts culminating in excellence! Thank you all for all of your outstanding efforts! TAA is the absolute best professional development for arts education.

–West TN Theatre

Thank you once again for helping me regain my confidence and energy. TAA is by far the BEST training available for an art teacher! HUGS to you!

-Visual Art Participant

Wow. This week has been exactly what I needed to re-energize my teaching. I am leaving inspired to start the next school year and utilize all the tools I have collected this week!

-Chuck Brown, Middle TN Music Participant

Love it! Love it! Love it!

-Stella McKnight, Middle TN Music Participant

Enriching experience that feeds the soul!

-Michelle Cantrell, Middle TN Visual Art Participant

This week has been captivating, motivating and an experience I’ll never forget. Thank you for the inspiration and plethora of knowledge – what a wonderful community - and I will be back.

-Brian Kaufman, Middle TN Theatre Participant

Treated like royalty! Thank you for your hard work and a creative experience. Amazing 30th!

-Michelle Cantrell, Middle TN Visual Art Participant

Fabulous opportunity to meet peers of like minds.

-Middle TN Visual Art Participant

Thank you Thank you Thank you! This one of a kind experience puts a smile on everyone’s face.  
We make friends. We learn. We laugh and we cry. Only at TAA can we do what we ask our students each and every day…be ourselves! So again thank you!

–Middle TN Theatre Participant

I feel refreshed and enriched as both an artist and an educator.

–Kami Horton, East TN Music Participant

Great experience - useful, encouraging, and uplifting – a great way to recharge our batteries. -Patricia Hudson, Middle TN Visual Art Participant

Incredible week to rejuvenate, refresh, renew, and re-energize teachers.  
This has been one of the most useful events I’ve ever been to. So thankful for this amazing experience that gives me so many helpful ideas for the classroom. I feel affirmed and appreciated and valued. Thank you.

–East TN Music Participant

Arts Academy is such a great recharge before a new year begins. Bravo!!

-East TN Music

This experience was absolutely a whirlwind of amazing!

–Middle TN Theatre Participant

I laughed, I cried, I learned. TRIPLE THREAT! TAA gets better every time I come. Keep up the good work!

-Rachel Hudgins, West TN Music Participant

It was an amazing re-charge!

-Pam Cosner, East TN Visual Art Participant

Not only does the TN Arts Academy provide quality professional development, but it richly inspires teachers of the arts and places great value on them and demonstrates the importance of what we do.

-Middle TN Music Participant

As a first time participant, I found coming here and experiencing the week made me feel like a professional again!

-Music Participant

This is a one of a kind experience that is of immeasurable worth, and is the most helpful resource since, and may include, college.

–Febrienne Box, Middle TN Music Participant

I cannot imagine not being a part of TAA – each summer.

Elizabeth Perthel, Visual Art Participant

I am now charged up and ready to start year 35!

-Charlene Cook, East TN Music

I feel utterly blessed for the tools and information I received this week. The musings, the staff, the performances all provided me with the encouragement and inspiration we so desperately need in our field.

–Erin Whitford, Middle TN Music Participant

With 45 years in public school visual arts education, the Tennessee Arts Academy is and was the highest inspiring week to send a teacher back to school with fresh ideas and an appreciation in the choice to be an arts educator.

-Bill Shinn, Visual Art Participant

This has been a fabulous week filled with learning, joy, and laughter! This week’s session is one of if not the best conferences I have attended. The faculty was most informative and down to earth.

–Dakota Hill, Middle TN Music Participant

Thank you for making us feel important in the lives of our children.

–Kimberly Lundin, East TN Music Participant

It has inspired me to bring more arts into my general classroom instruction.

–Middle TN Theatre Participant/Classroom Teacher

I did not “give up” a week of my summer. I gained a treasure chest filled to overflowing to share with my students this year as well as years to come.

–Betty Miles Julian, East TN Music Participant

I have gained valuable knowledge and experienced fulfillment to prepare me for the upcoming school year.

–Sara Hissner, Middle TN Music Participant

I loved all of the diverse experiences and professionalism.

-Erin Prindle, East TN Visual Art Participant

This experience has refreshed my soul and spirit! It’s so nice to be treated like royalty! -S. Benson, East TN Music Participant

This has been one of the most inspiring weeks I’ve had in a long time.

–Middle TN Librarian/Theatre Participant

This year was the best year for me – out of all five!

-Roland Wilson, West TN Music Participant

TAA continues to offer an experience that seems more and more integral to my teaching career every year.

–Tim Koly, Middle TN Music Participant

I have thoroughly enjoyed this week. I loved every minute of every day. I can’t wait to come back.

-East TN Visual Art Participant

I ♥ TN ARTS ACADEMY.

–Visual Art Participant

The networking is also an amazing benefit from this Academy. Meeting such dedicated teachers from all over is so encouraging.

–Middle TN Music Participant

It is the highlight of my summer! I look forward with great anticipation to the quality instruction, time with colleagues, and superior performances at TAA. I am never disappointed!

-Donna Browning, West TN Music Participant

The Academy is the paramount professional development experience of my year, - where I am affirmed, challenged and refreshed. I love it! This Academy has changed my life.

-Nicole Arnold, Middle TN Theatre

It is absolutely AMAZING!

-Middle TN Music Participant

This is the most important professional development an artist could ever attend.

– Middle TN Visual Art Participant

TAA will continue to be my summer learning experience!

-Lisa Benton, Middle TN Music Participant

TAA was a wonderful and refreshing learning experience!

-Ginger Strohm, East TN Music Participant

I don’t think I could go back to the trenches without it.

–Middle TN Theatre Participant

TAA is a wonderful source of inspiration.

–Emma Litton, Middle TN Music Participant

The TAA week has been filled with creative, exciting, stimulating conversation and art.

-Visual Art Participant

The TAA always sparks a desire in me to learn and explore my teaching art in music in ways I’d never considered. It’s always such a refreshing week of learning.

–East TN Music Participant

It was a great learning experience in being able to integrate drama into my regular education classroom.

-Jamie Doran, East TN Theatre Participant/Classroom Teacher

I feel so blessed to have participated.

– Middle TN Music

The TAA was enriching in so many ways, highly organized, and a very useful professional development opportunity.

-East TN Visual Art Participant

I am honored to be a part of this incredible organization. I come away with many ideas that assist me as a music educator. Thank you for this incredible week! I am better because of it!

-Middle TN Music Participant

The 2016 experience gave me a new desire to bring “arts” into my classes. Not only from the instruction but because of enthusiasm and cohesiveness of all involved!

-West TN Trio Track Participant

I am proud to know our state invests so much in music education.

–Julie Littleton, East TN Music Participant

Overall I would recommend the TAA to everyone no matter what their level of experience. It’s great to learn new things and fuel the soul.

–East TN Music Participant

The presentations, musings, and the performances created a full-bodied experience, and I feel immersed in the arts! The arts integration is such a powerful force in changing education and culture. Thank you!

-West TN Visual Art Participant

In the 20 years since I attended, TAA has grown! Bravo to this wonderful resource for teachers!

-Lauren Baker, Middle TN Music Participant

Simply excellent! Every single thing!

-Barbara Gibson, Middle TN Music Participant

Thank you for the opportunity to experience the Arts Academy every year!

- Middle TN Visual Art Participant

Every music teacher in TN should attend TAA at least once. It lifts your spirits and momentum for a new school year.

–Roberta Rodgers, Middle TN Music Participant

I have thoroughly enjoyed all of my experiences this week and feel rejuvenated with great ideas and impressions, from faculty and musers!

-Middle TN Visual Art Participant

It was fabulous to be treated and trained as a valued professional. Thank you for the whole deal!

- Janna Waldrupe, East TN Music Participant

This program succeeds in bringing back the passion and appreciation teachers need, and deserve all year long.

-MeHaley Babich, East TN Music Participant

TAA continues to be the BEST overall value for Professional Development in the Arts in Tennessee. Love it!

- Ginger Slate, East TN Visual Art Participant

This week was beyond compare!

-Jennifer Keith, Middle TN Theatre Participant

Wonderful content this year! Bravo!

-Carol Bellgrau, East TN Music Participant

The tone for my year has been set. This has become a part of my teaching life. In addition, the ability to observe other tracks was invaluable!

-Atticus Hensley, Middle TN Arts Leadership Participant

This has been a wonderful experience ~ the best one so far!

- East TN Visual Art Participant