

**2018 Tennessee Arts Academy
Participant Evaluation Written Comments**

This experience was nothing short of spectacular!

The single most significant and impactful creative and educational experience of the entire year; TAA not only impacts the teachers in the building, but thousands of students across Tennessee every year!

I feel alive and revived and ready to start the new school year. Thank you, TAA! BRAVO!

The faculty we get, the relevance of their core classes, and the breadth and depth that we reach in their classes is incredible.

This has been a truly career changing experience!

Definitely inspired me, energized me, and empowered me as an arts educator!

This was one of the best experiences of my adult life as an arts educator!!

The resources provided by TAA are equally inspiring and practical. They make me a better artist, teacher, and human being. The instructors teach and connect on a level that is lasting and impactful. They do not leave at the door or at the end of the week. They allow us to forever use the resources they provide for ourselves and the students we teach.

It was absolutely phenomenal. I feel cherished and have grown as an educator from this experience. I am leaving empowered for my future in my classroom and rehearsal! I'm so pumped!

Thank you for connecting my "island" to so many others! It has changed my teaching experience for the better!

Best PD anywhere. It's like coming home and getting sent out flying!

The instructors were beyond amazing! They were personable, exciting, encouraging and knowledgeable.

The Academy is a must do for all teachers, not just arts teachers.

Each year TAA confirms that I'm on "the right track" in my teaching and it helps make "my ride" more enjoyable, engaging, and practical.

This experience was magical, and so much more than I ever expected!

This year clinicians were OUTSTANDING instructors and human beings. Their commitment to storytelling, inspiration, and artistry inspires us to return to the classroom with enthusiasm.

An inspiring, spirit-lifting experience!

TAA is hands down the very best professional development I've ever had the pleasure and privilege to attend – I've been to NAEA's state conferences in TN, GA and AL – TAA is still the very best.

Just when I think it doesn't get any better, IT DOES!

This was like a spa retreat...massages for my soul, nourishing food for thought, and we were treated like celebrities.

As a student just getting a start as a performing teaching artist, this program has given me the materials to make a good start into my professional career. Thank you!

I LOVE it – I cannot believe how much we accomplish in the time.

The diversity of instruction of the Academy will improve my students' education for years to come.

I always get to recharge at TAA. It offers inspiration and empowers us to teach better and inspire others.

TAA sends me home each year pumped and ready to start a new leg of my journey! I will come to the Academy as long as it exists!

Tennessee Arts Academy prepares me to start my school year and carries me through the year in an extremely positive and professional manner.

I am so proud to live in a state that has an event like this. The quality of professional development is unmatched anywhere.

Instructors were SUPERB!!

I have had EXCELLENT teaching, gained MARVELOUS inspiration and feel EMPOWERED to conquer another school in the Arts Education World!

The sessions run like a “well oiled” machine. Very professional and organized!

Encouraging, helpful, fun and awesome!

This week has been extraordinary. Great instruction, flow of events, very inviting!!

Wonderful impactful instructors, instruction that I can USE!!!

There is no greater avenue for teachers of ANY subject to get rejuvenated, validated, and prepared. Absolutely invaluable!

Love! Love! Love! It gets better every year!

Everything was awesome! People, performers, teachers, lessons, food – top notch!

Awesome Instructors! ♥

(Regarding the faculty) They were all wonderful!

Overall, a FANTASTIC experience! A great variety of performances, excellent instructors, and effective organization of events! Great work!!!

The Arts Academy fills my soul and prepares me for my practice in the fall.

In addition to the many teaching tools for my toolbox I learned so much by the instructors' styles of teaching and respectful approaches to the activities (i.e. ask permission to touch your shoulder or do what feels right for your body).

I loved this amazing week of learning, activity, collaboration, and fun.

TAA definitely met the goal of Teach – Inspire – Empower

TAA is the quintessential professional development, where I can be inspired, affirmed and renewed through excellent instruction and collaboration.

Just when I think it doesn't get any better, IT DOES!

I have been teaching for 6 years. This is by far the BEST, most relevant, and practical "PD" I have ever attended. (5 years in another state)

I loved it and can't wait for next year!

As always this week refilled my soul. Thank you.

LOVED all of this year's clinicians!!

An amazing learning experience and wonderful concerts made for such a great week!

This week has rejuvenated my teaching and left me ready to continue my craft. Thank you for helping me to sharpen my axe.

I am so thankful to have been a part of TAA this week. I've simply been blown away! There is no weak link at TAA! Everything was outstanding – leadership, instructors, content, musings, performances, interludes, chorale, etc. Everyone has been so kind and positive. It has simply been an outstanding experience, and I'm so very appreciative of the scholarship that allowed for me to be a part of this!

The TAA has given me new connections, materials, and inspiration to take back to my classroom!

TAA has given me a renewed sense of joy to bring back to my school! I have truly felt appreciated and loved this week! Thank you!

I learned so much and had a great time.

TAA has prepared me and inspired me in a more meaningful way than any other professional development course.

The realness Dr. Hilliard brought to the class was much appreciated. He has kept his ear to the ground which excites me heading back for this year.

Julie Scott was amazing! Best instructor I have had at TAA! Thank you for sharing her with us!

I appreciate the knowledge that the faculty shares. It really helps me to get my thought processes ready for the school year. I love Arts Integration and including it in my classroom. Y'all help me do this. Thank you!!

Hands down the most effective arts integration professional development in the nation!! I will return next year and convince my administration!

The faculty has been very wonderful

Sheila is a superstar. Prepared so many materials to give us for free (eg. USB drive). All three elementary instructors have enlightened me, and I am overwhelmed with knowledge and joy.

It was the best experience in my career. If only county systems were required to help send teachers every year. Students and teachers deserve it!

Thank you for bringing Karen Howard! World music and multiculturalism is a message that needs to be represented every year. She filled the world music hole in my heart that I forgot was there!

I love the entertainment portion of the Bravo Banquet and the food was great!

The instructors were amazing, especially Karen Howard.

The instructors this year were great! They were very relevant to today's classroom. Karen Howard's session was great at tackling issues in society that need to be addressed.

This is my happy place.

Incredible musicians! Incredible teachers! Compassion, and love shows!

I appreciated all of them (clinicians) so very well. They were excited to teach us. I LOVED them so very much!

This was one of the best years ~ the clinicians were all excellent!

I proudly financially support TAA! Thank you so much for your tireless efforts to make it one of the most important PD opportunities for teachers of the arts

I've grown so much as a music educator thanks to TAA!

Dr. Hilliard was a phenomenal, down to earth teacher for us this week. He provided us with many resources we can take into the classroom and reinforced good music teaching!

Highly professional and relevant PD. I will definitely return. Mr. Culloton was exceptional.

Amazing presenters in ALL 3 classes this year! Very useful!

(Regarding instructor ratings) I usually don't put 5's for all the categories, but everyone truly did a fantastic job this year.

What an amazing experience! Although I am new to the Academy, I've been teaching ten plus years and have never been to a better visual art professional development!

The Academy was a wonderful, uplifting experience.

Everyone from student helpers to instructors to Belmont staff were exceptionally friendly and helpful.

What a great year. I feel like my comments last year were heard and applied. There were more musers/performers of color. There were more teachers/participants of color too which was great to talk and meet with them. For next year would like to see the gala performer be of color, there are so many amazing African-American singers performers, makes a difference to see folks from marginalized groups on that special night.

This week was inspiring! I learned many new techniques to use in my classroom and learned from/was inspired by all the artists!

(Regarding instructor ratings) I can give everyone all 5's.

Amazing instructional materials from well developed artists and teachers. Definitely will use information learned here to incorporate into my curriculum.

Re: Kate Church – She was absolutely amazing and such an amazing artist and teacher to watch and learn from.

Re: Victoria Englehart – Her projects will lead to some fantastic projects for my students. I can't wait to find ways to use them.

The TN Arts Academy was a wonderful experience! I will certainly return for more professional development! Thank you! And the campus and all workers were amazing!

Don (visual art clinician) is the best! I want to be Don when I grow up!

I really enjoyed my week – very intensive – musings were inspiring.

An amazing roller coaster week of art and culture, I want to be here all the time!

Kate Church was amazing! Libby Lynch was an excellent leader and administrator of the visual arts!

The food was amazing and the talent performance was spectacular, but it was too long.

Artists represent a colorful rainbow spool of thread igniting the universe.

Victoria Englehart and Kate Church were AMAZING!

The clinicians were so inspiring. They introduced us to big ideas, didn't shy away from lively debate, and energized us for the year ahead.

Thank you for arranging TAA and working so hard to make it relevant and detailed. Your passion is inspiring.