



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

1430 N STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA
95814-5901

JACK O'CONNELL

State Superintendent of
Public Instruction

PHONE: (916) 319-0800

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**Nancy Warzer-Brady, Director of Education and Community Programs
Orange County Performing Arts Center**

Dear Nancy,

I am very delighted to know that the Orange County Performing Arts Center will be having Dr. Victoria Stevens sharing her research and work involving Visual and Performing Arts Education and our California students with Orange County teachers and OCPAC artists. Victoria's shared presentations in multiple counties this past year, since the California Art Education Association 2007 Conference, has awakened minds to the affects and effects of arts education instruction and its integral assessment for our students in their academic learning at school.

I am sorry to not be at the Orange County Performing Arts and Orange County Office of Education workshop. I would love to see first-hand the recognition your workshop attendees will have that THEY can make an even bigger difference in their students' lives through the inclusion of visual and performing arts instruction throughout the weeks of each school year. You will be offering a new lens to many about the importance of sequenced learning instruction, be it in the arts and with the artists as part of this workshop, and by inclusion of what Victoria will be sharing that speaks to higher-order thinking skills. Her work examples, regarding meaningful arts learning for our students with regards to empathy, metacognition, imagination and creativity, is most important as we adults work with students toward their successful lives and their well-being. Victoria clearly addresses necessary 21st century skill development and that arts learning transfers to other academic areas that are not offered conversely by other academic areas that enhance the entire learning mode and self-development of our students.

To OCPAC, I congratulate you on the inclusion of Dr. Stevens' research and work in the summer 2008 workshop. I also am pleased Jim Thomas of the Orange County Department of Education will be discussion assessment, in addition to Victoria's conversation about assessment. I hope to see Orange County folks at the National Arts Assessment Conference at the Sheraton Universal in Los Angeles, October 21-22 of this year. With this summer workshop, OCPAC is also providing Orange County folks with an advanced look into work in assessment that is meaningful, is informative to instruction and to student learning in the arts. I look forward to hearing of the success of this workshop series and wonderful outcomes as a result of this week's work and learning.

Please extend to the attendees my regret of not being able to be in attendance at this particular workshop series

Sincerely,

**Nancy Carr
Visual and Performing Arts Consultant
California Department of Education**