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THE DIVISION OF THE ARTS EXPLORES ROLE OF IMAGINATION AS KEY TO FUTURE GROWTH

In affiliation with Lincoln Center Institute for the Arts in Education, The Division of the Arts is hosting an Imagination Conversation at 8:30 a.m. on May 20 at the Manship Theatre in Baton Rouge. Panelists will discuss implementing the method of introducing imagination into classrooms to develop student's capacities to think imaginatively and creatively, which improves their performance in all subject areas.

The panelists for Louisiana's Imagination Conversation are:

Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne
Superintendent Paul Pastorek
Julio Melara, business leader and publisher of 225 magazine
Senator Sharon Weston Broome
Derek Gordon, CEO, Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge

The moderator of this panel is Sarah Cunningham, director of education for the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington D.C. The keynote speaker for this conversation will be Louisiana Artist Laureate George Rodrigue.

"I'm very proud of the success of the ICI initiative has had in supporting arts in education," Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne said. "Our Division of the Arts employees work hard to bring the arts alive for our children, which yields comprehensive benefits to education."

This conversation is part of the Louisiana Division of the Arts Imagination, Creativity and Innovation Initiative which supports schools with a mission of nurturing creativity in every learner through an integrated arts education. In ICI Initiative schools, the processes of creating, performing and responding to art lead to increased student achievement, increased attendance by students and staff, lower rates of retention, higher self-esteem, decreased discipline problems, greater parent participation and a growing sense of community.

Imagination Conversations are planned to take place over two years in each of the 50 states. All of the Conversations will be documented and final proposals for nationwide educational reform will be made at a national Imagination Summit in New York in July 2011. At the Summit, Imagination Conversation findings and an action agenda will be presented to public policy makers, educators, legislators and the media in an effort to make cultivation of imagination a key element in our schools.

About Lincoln Center Institute (LCI): LCI is the educational cornerstone of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Inc., and is the model for arts education programs across the US and abroad. Founded in 1975, the Institute is known for its inventive repertory, and brings music, dance, theater, visual art, and architecture into classrooms in the New York City area, across the nation, and around the world. In more than three decades of outreach, LCI's approach has reached over 20 million students, teachers, administrators, parents, community members, and professors of education worldwide. The number is projected to increase in the next few years, thanks to LCI's highly successful professional development programs and Internet presence.



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