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Summer Program Helping Teachers Infuse Arts with the Common Core Standards

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SCOE Arts Academy participants visit the Mondavi Center during their week-long workshop.

While most teachers and administrators are recharging their schooling batteries this summer, dozens of Sacramento area educators are hitting the books—arts books that is!

During the week of July 22-26, art teachers, art coaches and school administrators are participating in the first ever SCOE Leadership Institute Arts Academy. It is a week-long, professional development workshop focusing on arts education.

"Research has proven that involvement in the arts is linked to improvement in math, reading, verbal skill and critical thinking," said [Sacramento County Superintendent of Schools](#) David W. Gordon. "We also know that arts learning can help improve motivation and promote teamwork."

During the workshop, participants will gain an understanding of the [California Common Core State Standards](#) through integration of visual and performing arts strategies. They will design K-12 lessons that can be implemented in their classrooms. Participants will also develop a professional learning community through ongoing networking, engagement, understanding of regional arts education programs, and year-long connections and support.

The California Alliance for Arts Education notes that arts education helps prepare students for the globally competitive workforce by developing the ability to innovate, communicate and collaborate.

Arts education in schools can help lower dropout rates and help close the achievement gap regardless of socioeconomic status.

"Arts education is an integral part of the development of the whole person," said Dr. L. Steven Winlock, Executive Director, [SCOE Leadership Institute](#). "Our workshop participants are exploring new approaches to better integrate arts education into the Common Core Standards and curriculum. The ultimate goal is to enhance the students' overall personal growth."

The workshop includes "field trips" to attend local performances at the Mondavi Center, the Sacramento Ballet, Crocker Art Museum and Music Circus (California Musical Theater), which serve as 2013 Arts Academy partners. UC Davis Extended Learning credits are available through the program.

For more information about future SCOE Leadership Institute Arts Academy programs, contact Kristen Coyle: (916) 228-2538.

Disclosure: *Tim Herrera is Communications Director for the Sacramento County Office of Education.*