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Contact: Roxanne Stanulis, Communications Coordinator, 302-577-8283

*March for the Arts in Education*  
Applaud Student Excellence

The Delaware Division of the Arts is proud to feature outstanding examples of student art and performance in a series of YouTube videos. Documenting student achievement in the arts, the YouTube videos are being released throughout the month of March, designated as *March for the Arts in Education* month.

To watch the videos, visit the Official YouTube Page for the State of Delaware at <http://www.youtube.com/DelawareGovernment> and select the “Student Excellence in the Arts” playlist. The videos along with details of the project will be available at the Division’s website as well.

Excerpts from the 2011 All-State music festivals, the Scholastic Arts awards exhibition, and highlights from the Delaware All-State Theatre will be featured in the series. A video with selections from the Delaware State Finals of the high school Poetry Out Loud competition will be added later this month.

**All-State Music Bands**

The 2011 Delaware All-State Band, Chorus, Orchestra and Jazz Band music festivals are sponsored and run by the Delaware Music Educators Association (DMEA). The purpose of the All-State ensembles is to provide young musicians in Delaware’s public, private and parochial school music programs with opportunities to rehearse and perform challenging music under the direction of a world-class conductor. Students in grades 7 through 12 prepare to audition for the ensemble of their choosing, are judged by members of the DMEA, and, on the basis of their audition, are selected to participate in the festival. Each festival lasts three days and culminates in a gala concert showcasing each ensemble. For more information on the Delaware All-State Music Ensembles, visit the DMEA website at <http://www.delawaremea.org>

**Scholastic Art Awards**

The Delaware Regional Scholastics Art Awards, sponsored by Delaware State University, is a statewide juried visual arts competition for students in grades 7 through 12. Students submit entries in a variety of categories to compete for the much-desired Gold Key and Silver Key Awards. The Arts Center/Gallery at DSU exhibits the Gold Key and Silver Key award artwork during the month of January, and the program culminates in an awards ceremony in mid-February. Artwork receiving Regional Gold Key awards advances to the National Scholastics Art Awards competition for national judging.

### **Delaware All-State Theatre**

The Delaware All-State Theatre (DAST), a division of J. Alexander Productions, was created to give elementary, middle, and high school theater students the unique opportunity to work on a large-scale musical production in partnership with the world famous DuPont Theatre. Full-time students (up to age 19) from across Delaware and the immediate surrounding area are eligible to participate either as a performer or behind the scenes in a technical capacity.

### **Poetry Out Loud**

*Poetry Out Loud* is a national arts education program that encourages the study of great poetry by offering educational materials and a dynamic recitation competition to high schools across the country. In Delaware, the Division of the Arts sponsors the Poetry Out Loud program. Beginning at the classroom level, student winners advance to a school-wide competition, then to the state competition, and ultimately to the National Finals in Washington, DC. Over 2,300 Delaware students participated in the *Poetry Out Loud* program in the current academic year.

### **About *March for the Arts in Education***

In 2003, Senator Dorinda A. Connor authored an Act under Senate Bill No. 116 of the 142<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly, designating the month of March as *March for the Arts in Education* month. Senator Connor envisioned a month devoted to combined and concentrated efforts to celebrate arts education throughout the state—recognizing the critical role that the arts play in providing a well-rounded education for Delaware's youth.

In previous years, to celebrate *March for the Arts in Education* month, the Department of Education and Division of the Arts have featured school performance groups, poetry readings, and artwork hung in the halls of the State Legislature.