



INSTITUTE for EDUCATION and the ARTS
Education Alive!

CONTACTS: Ron Stowe (571 218-5381)
Stephanie Rosselli (330 492-8136)

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INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATION AND THE ARTS
LAUNCHES NATIONAL OVERTURE IN OHIO, WITH FIRST
PILOT SITE IN STARK COUNTY

Washington, D.C. – The Institute for Education and the Arts will announce plans for the *NATIONAL OVERTURE OF EDUCATION AND THE ARTS IN OHIO* tomorrow at a special ceremony to be held at the Marriott Canton McKinley Grand Hotel in Stark County, Ohio. Stark County has been chosen as a pilot site for this multi-year program designed to highlight the power of the creative arts to help improve academic performance by all students at the K-12 level.

The *National Overture* program is being developed with the support of the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Arts Council, and will involve detailed planning and implementation in cooperation in cooperation state and local educators, arts organizations, business and community leaders and public officials. The *National Overture* events are designed to share with local schools and communities a rich variety of ways the arts can excite and engage students more effectively than with traditional teaching methods alone, improving their own sense of commitment to learning, their understanding of complex concepts, and their academic performance in subjects across the curriculum.

Ronald Stowe, President of the Institute for Education and the Arts, said that “We are extremely pleased to be working with Stark County in this exciting and creative initiative. We look forward to cooperating closely with the dedicated leaders of education and arts institutions, business and civic supporters, and others concerned about education. We will work to identify local interests and needs, to share best practices from around the country, and to build new partnerships with state and national experts and organizations with resources that can be available to schools throughout this area.” A regional Advisory Committee has been established

to advise and assist the Institute in developing this education program, and events are being scheduled to begin in Stark County in 2005.

Welcoming the Institute's initiative and cooperation with area educators, Larry Morgan, Superintendent of Stark County ECS said he strongly supports the program and welcomes the Institute's initiative and looks forward to developing a program that will have direct relevance to local needs. Mike Gill, Chairman of the Board of the Cultural Center for the Arts, said "The *National Overture in Ohio* initiative holds great promise both for our schools, and also for gaining even broader public recognition of the extraordinary artistic and cultural talent and resources we have in this area. That is good for education, and good for the development of this community."

Sheila Markley Black, a partner at Day Ketterer law firm who will chair the regional Advisory Committee for the National Overture, said "I am extremely pleased at the enthusiasm and the diversity of the members of this Committee. One of our goals is to ensure participation by a very broad spectrum of interests in Stark County, and we have gotten off to an outstanding start. I look forward to working with the Institute and with other members of this Advisory Committee to focus front and center on our local interests and needs."

The Institute's program ranges from showing how rare 16th century choir books can be used to teach math, chemistry and history, to intensive examination of ways that existing local resources can be used on a routine and affordable basis to help inspire and teach students in schools. Using a combination of the rich talent that exists in Stark County and other Ohio communities, and the extraordinary resources available without charge from national organizations like the Library of Congress, the Institute is working with educators and arts organizations to focus on using these resources to improve academic performance by all students, of all skill levels and from all cultural and economic backgrounds.

The Institute for Education and the Arts is a non-profit education organization based in Washington, DC. For more information about the Institute, please see www.edartsinstitute.org.

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