

Phase 2 – Day 1: Health in Fine Arts Professional Development Workshop TCPAH NIH Grant Project

October 11th, 2019



Left to Right: Brian Leaf (NNLM-SCR - Director), Ryan Napier (Harpool Middle School – Orchestra Director), Amy Woody (Guyer High School – Band Director), Mia Price (DISD School Board – Immediate Past President), Roger Hoverson (UNT – Graduate Assistant), Sajid Surve (TCPAH – Co-Director), Tyler Fox (Guyer High School – Choir Director), Travis Harris (McMath Middle School – Band Director), Jamie Wilson (DISD – Superintendent), Stephen Austin (UNT – Voice Professor), Kevin Rybowicz (Bettye Myers Middle School – Choir Director), Meghan Taylor (UNT – Graduate Assistant), Michael Burris (Braswell High School – Orchestra Director), Tamara Brown (UNT – Executive Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences), Kris Chesky (TCPAH – Co-Director), Victor Prybutok (UNT – Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Toulouse Graduate School), Kamakshi Gopal (UNT – Chair of Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology), Frank Filipetto (UNTHSC – Dean of the Osteopathic Medical School), Barbara Burns (DISD School Board – President), Andrey Voevodin (UNT – Department Chair Materials Science and Engineering), Eddy Russell (DISD – Assistant Director of Fine Arts), Vijay Vaidyanathan (UNT – Department Chair/Division Head Biomedical Engineering), Jackie deMontmollin (DISD – Director of Fine Arts)



Jackie deMontmollin (left) and Tamara Brown (right)

The Texas Center for Performing Arts Health is focused on preparing fine arts educators to respond to health concerns related to learning and performing music. Partnering with Denton Independent School District, the TCPAH launched the first Health in Fine Arts Professional Development Workshop specifically designed to provide Fine Arts Educators in DISD with the most current performing arts health research and opportunities to develop strategies to meet

their state mandates that address health concepts in fine arts classrooms across the state.

This two-day workshop began on Friday, October 11th, 2019 and hosted nearly 100 Fine Arts Educators from across the district. These educators represented dance, band, orchestra, choir, and theatre disciplines. Showing their support for this project, the University of North Texas, Denton Independent School District, and the University of North Texas - Health Science Center sent high-profile representatives to witness the opening ceremonies where the vision of the project was discussed. These dignitaries included the Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Toulouse Graduate School at UNT, Superintendent and School Board President from DISD, and the Dean of the Osteopathic Medical School at UNT-HSC. Representatives from Materials Science and Engineering, Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology, Biomedical Engineering, Health and Public Service, and Psychology. This robust and diverse group of individuals was present to stress the importance of this project for improving the health of our youth using fine arts education as a vehicle for change. These unprecedented activities established an institutionalized and sustainable partnership between the TCPAH, DISD and their administrations.

Beyond highlighting the breadth of support of this project, our goals for Phase 2 - Day 1 were to provide context for Fine Arts Educators to understand the development of this project, describe performing arts health discipline as a whole, and present educators with the



Kris Chesky presents to Fine Arts Educators from DISD.

fundamentals in each content area from performing arts health industry-experts. To help educators develop a broader set of professional skills, the TCPAH faculty provided information about vocal health, hearing health, musculoskeletal health, mental health, hygiene, and hydration to the DISD fine arts faculty. This content began establishing what students should know and be

able to do in order to respond to the state mandates about health in Fine Arts Classrooms. Equipped with the knowledge of performing arts health concepts, this content served as the basis for the small group discussions and strategic planning sessions on Phase 2 - Day 2.