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Young Auditorium Horizons Program Honors Area Teachers

WHITEWATER – Young Auditorium hosted its fourth annual “Teachers’ Night Out” appreciation event on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 in the Fern Young Terrace at Young Auditorium in Whitewater. May 3rd also happened to be National Teacher Appreciation Day. The evening’s hostess, Young Auditorium Assistant Director & Director of Education & Outreach, Shannon Dozoryst, addressed over 50 area teachers and special guests with the evening’s message; the event was held to recognize and thank all of the teachers and administrators who make the Arts a priority in their schools and classrooms.

Dozoryst welcomed the attendees, “Thank you for joining us this evening. I appreciate your support of our Education and Outreach programming. We are pleased to have teachers, administrators, PTO representatives, teaching artists, educational partners, and business sponsors with us to celebrate this evening. You all play such an important part in our programming and I do not take that for granted. Thank you.”

Dozoryst continued, “All of you are extremely important to helping us at Young Auditorium accomplish the mission of our Horizons arts education program, which is to support the curriculum of schools by providing culturally diverse programs for K-12 students and their teachers. You make the Arts a priority for your students by participating in performances, outreach, and professional development.

And for that, we are deeply grateful. We also know that we could not accomplish this mission without financial support. We thank NASCO for their continued support of our Arts4All and Reaching New Horizons programs.”

NASCO representatives, Sally Koehler, Rhonda Hutchison, and Barb George were recognized for their support, and NASCO was recognized as Young Auditorium’s partner in education for their ongoing sponsorship and support of the Arts4All program. Arts4All was established in 2007 to subsidize the cost of tickets for economically disadvantaged students. Without the necessary help needed to acquire tickets and transportation, many students would never have exposure to the performing arts in their education.

Dozoryst continued, “This year we piloted a new model within our Reaching New Horizons professional development program in which classroom teachers worked for an extended period of time with teaching artists. This work took place over the course of a month and involved the following components: participation in a professional development workshop, classroom observation of a teaching artist, planning and co-teaching a lesson with the teaching artist, receiving coaching and feedback, and further implementation of strategies. We will be recognizing five teachers this year for not only agreeing to try this out, but for jumping in head first and enthusiastically embracing this work in implementing arts integration strategies in their classrooms.”

Meghan Valentine from Monroe Elementary School and Amanda Werner from Madison Elementary School (both in Janesville) were recognized for their work in using storytelling strategies in the classroom with teaching artist Stuart Stotts. Stotts also performed a children’s concert at Young Auditorium in March as part of Young Auditorium’s Never Too Young Series of events.

Julie Jenson from Van Buren Elementary School in Janesville was recognized for her work in using process drama in the classroom with teaching artist Edric Johnson. Lassity Sullivan and Kristen Lippens from LINCS in Whitewater were recognized for their work in using tableau in the classroom with teaching artist Marti Gobel.

Dozoryst stated, “All of these recognized teachers are receiving a NASCO gift card, a Young Auditorium gift certificate, and free tickets to bring their classes to see David Gonzalez’s *The Frog Bride*, an arts integration performance scheduled for this November, which is our Spotlight on Youth Theatre selection for the next school year.”

Dozoryst added, “To all of the teachers here with us tonight, we are so proud of your accomplishments this year. Thank you for providing the conditions to allow our children to grow each and every day. Thank you for your commitment to ensuring that all students continue to experience the arts as part of their education. Thank you to those administrators who are here this evening and for supporting your teaching staff in these endeavors.”

After the recognition ceremony, guests enjoyed a meal prepared by Chartwells Dining Services of UW-Whitewater, followed by Young Auditorium’s main stage entertainment of *Swan Lake* performed by the Moscow Festival Ballet.

Young Auditorium’s Horizons Matinee Series program is intended to provide schools and home school groups with affordable opportunities to satisfy Common Core educational requirements. Studies show that students who are exposed to the arts as part of a well-rounded education demonstrate improved reading comprehension and social maturity, develop creative and critical thinking skills, and tend to enjoy enhanced academic achievement. For more information, visit www.uww.edu/youngauditorium/education.

PHOTO CAPTION:

Young Auditorium Assistant Director and Director of Education & Outreach, Shannon Dozoryst, honors area teachers and thanks supporters for their participation in Young Auditorium’s arts integration in the classroom programs at Young Auditorium’s fourth annual “Teachers’ Night Out” appreciation event. Pictured (left to right): Shannon Dozoryst (Young Auditorium), Amanda Werner (Madison Elementary School-Janesville), Meghan Valentine (Monroe Elementary School-Janesville), Lassity Sullivan (LINCS-Whitewater), and Kristen Lippens (LINCS-Whitewater). Not pictured: Julie Jenson (Van Buren Elementary-Janesville).

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