Stan Dodson



Greetings, my name is Stan Dodson, it’s my pleasure to introduce myself for your consideration as GAEA president. I have been an art educator since 2008, and originally I started out as a print graphic artist and illustrator for the newspaper, *The Augusta Chronicle*. After close to a decade in graphic design, I pursued a career as an artist/educator. I started my art education career teaching elementary art and I currently teach high school art in Burke County. I grew up in coastal Beaufort, SC and attended the South Carolina Governor’s School for the Arts. I graduated from Ringling College of Art and Design with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in illustration (2000) and graduated from the University of Florida with a Masters of Art in Art Education (2014). In 2010 I received the Morris Museum of Art Outstanding Teacher in Art Award. In 2011 and 2017, I was named the school teacher of the year at Blakeney Elementary School and Burke County High School and in 2012 I was named the Burke County Teacher of the Year. I was honored in both 2015 and 2019 as the county STAR teacher and in 2018 I was named a Golden Apple recipient.

 I have many years of service to GAEA, serving in elected, appointed, and voluntary positions, including most recently as the secondary level president, and the district 6 president. I frequently present at district, state, NAEA, and AP conferences. Recently, I was the fall 2017 GAEA Augusta co-conference chair, working extensively to present; Vision, Voices, and Visuals: The art of storytelling. I participate in GAEA sponsored events including, the National Art Honor Society convention, the All State Art Symposium, the Capitol Art Show, the Airport Exhibit, Collage contributor, and the annual YAM advocacy month. In 2015 I was honored to be selected as the GAEA Secondary Teacher of the Year.

 I launched my school’s inaugural AP studio art course while overseeing the redirection of NAHS art club. The art club has grown with the infusion of service-learning projects that connect empathy and identity through community based work. ‘Art with a Purpose’ is the overarching theme that resulted in a new club name, ARTreach and mission to giving back through purposeful work. I love advocating for the arts and worked as an adjunct professor with East Georgia State College teaching Introduction to Art courses and just recently partnered with Augusta University teaching MAT courses with the graduate school. I also serve as my school’s Fine Arts department chair. I live in Augusta with my wife, son and daughter. I strive to share Eliot Eisner’s vision of art as a vehicle through which we view the world, create meaning, and develop our minds.

 As a child I loved the prospect of new crayons, teaching can be compared to my new box of crayons; at my disposal are a variety of resources and strategies to choose from. Each working together can assist in making a beautiful, balanced picture full of color and wonder, a picture that can inspire and cultivate more learning. GAEA is that wonderful box of crayons, each of us has an opportunity to come together to be unified in the tool box and make marks not only on paper but also on people.

 With my varied background teaching early education students, high school students, pre-service teachers, and adults I feel I have the experience and leadership required to lead GAEA as president, this coupled with my industry experience and fine arts background place me in a position to be a successful advocate for GAEA. It is my sense of purpose and call to work that fuels my passion and guides me. If we as artists and educators are to remain relevant, initiate changes, and advocate for our students and programs we as an organization must continue to keep our fingers on the pulse of the creative community and work together to foster empathy and awareness that can activate change and empower all learners. It is my hope to be that liaison for GAEA as we unite together through challenges, growth, and development, for it is the totality and collection of patchworks that make a quilt complete, for GAEA, I want us to leave a legacy patch-marked in unity, passion, and advocacy. As a leader, I will work to nurture our strengths and aim to cultivate a community of leaders. I thank you for your consideration and would consider it an honor and pleasure to represent GAEA as president.