



CHAIRES UNESCO CHAIRS

IN/AU CANADA

UNESCO Chair in Arts and Learning

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Faculty of Education
Queen's University
Duncan McArthur Hall
511 Union Street
Kingston, ON K7M 5R7
T. 613-533-3026
F. 613-533-6584
www.unesco-queens.ca
unesco@queensu.ca

Chairholder:
Larry O'Farrell

Arts and Learning

There is mounting evidence of the value of the arts in education, both as an intrinsic component of human culture that deserves formal recognition in the school curriculum, and also as an instrument for achieving a wide range of essential learning goals. There is increasing support for the view that the arts can enhance the social, psychological and physical development of the child or adolescent as a healthy, productive and democratic individual. A young person who is exposed to the arts at school has an enhanced potential to become a more creative, imaginative, empathetic, expressive, confident, self-reliant and critically thinking human being.

Development Objective

The long-term objective of the Chair is to build capacity in teacher education and quality of education through collaboration on projects, events and electronic sharing of knowledge in arts and learning with a view to promoting north-south and north-south-south dialogue, mutual understanding and a culture of peace.

Projects of the Chair

- Creativity in Drama/Theatre and Arts Education, a multi-year, international study with collaborators in Canada, Norway, the United States, Jamaica
- Development of E-learning for Drama/Theatre Teachers, a multi-year, international project with collaborators in Canada, Norway, Sweden, Chile, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia
- Advancing Interdisciplinary Research in Singing (AIRS), a \$2.5 million dollar multi-national research project based at the University of Prince Edward Island, co-investigator and event co-sponsor
- International Monitoring and Comparative Research in Arts Education – reporting for UNESCO, (in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair for education in arts and culture, Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany and the Hong Kong Institute of Education, in cooperation with Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung / German Commission for UNESCO)

Events of the Chair

- Webcast Symposium on Creativity in Arts Education 2007
- Webcast Symposium on Educating Drama/Theatre Teachers (plus training workshops) 2008
- Canadian Symposium on Arts and Learning in Kingston (host and producer of webcast) 2008
- Canadian Symposium on Arts and Learning in Toronto (program organizer and webcast producer) 2009
- Gifts for a Culture of Peace Symposium in Kingston (co-host and webcast producer) 2009
- AIRS—UNESCO Chair joint pre-conference academic program, Phenomenon of Singing Conference, Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador 2009
- Canadian Symposium on Arts and Learning in Winnipeg (webcast producer) 2010
- Webcast on The Seoul Agenda: UNESCO's Commitment to Arts Education held Sept. 14, 2010
- Invitational Workshop on International Monitoring and Comparative Research in Arts Education – reporting for UNESCO, May 25 – 27, 2011 in Wildbad Kreuth, Germany (in collaboration project partners)

Communications and Publications

- Electronic Newsletter distributed internationally
- Website hosting webcasts and disseminating information
- Informational bulletins distributed through email list
- Encounters on Education/Encuentros sobre Educación/Rencontres sur l'Éducation, guest editor of Volume 11: Navigating the UNESCO Roadmap for Arts Education: Current directions in research and best practice (Fall 2010)
- Refereed E-Journal, Multi-Disciplinary Research in the Arts, guest editor of Vol 1, Issue 6: 'Singing: Interdisciplinary perspectives on a natural human expressive outlet'