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**SOMETHING GOOD IS HAPPENING IN ARIZONA!**

**SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA ARTS IN ACADEMICS (SAAA)**

**The U.S. Department of Education made an investment of just under $900,000 to fund a three year grant for an Arts Integration Model Program in Southern Arizona rural schools. Culminating events for this project are currently being planned for:**

* **Thursday, April 28 in at the Safford Performing Arts Center, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in Safford, AZ and**
* **Wednesday, May 4 at 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Phoenix Art Museum in Phoenix, AZ.**
* **In addition, SAAA student's art will be displayed at the Arizona State Capitol as well as twenty-two other locations throughout the Valley.**

**Karen Husted** is the Director of *The Arts for “Border” Children* and is the facilitator for the Southeast Arizona Arts in Academics (SAAA) professional development project.  SAAA is a consortium of eight rural Arizona schools. The project is a unique concept to bring arts integration through professional teaching artists to the SAAA schools.

The rural schools in Arizona have had a significant need for a program such as SAAA due to several factors including distance, isolation and limited funding making it difficult for students to be exposed to the arts and to work with master artisans.  In addition, teaching staffs were not prepared to teach the arts or incorporate art forms into their regular curriculum; and in most cases, art was not present as part of the school culture.  SAAA has built an infrastructure that will sustain art culture through efforts of the teachers, students, school administration, staff and community support.