



## **General Description**

ArtsBridge America is an innovative and nationally recognized arts education outreach program headquartered at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin. LU ArtsBridge is a unique research-based arts education partnership with Fox Valley schools that provides high quality arts education to Wisconsin's K-12 schoolchildren. LU ArtsBridge provides service-related stipends to qualified undergraduate university students (scholars) to teach the arts and to create projects in visual art, dance, drama, and music.

LU ArtsBridge objectives are: 1) to provide ongoing instruction in the arts and culture for under-served K-12 pupils in the Fox Cities in a manner that allows them to explore their own creativity while benefiting from the intrinsic and cross-curricular value of the arts, 2) to provide continuous professional support and museum resources for K-12 classroom teachers in the Fox Cities and unique opportunities to integrate the arts into traditional curricula in ways that address local, state, and national standards in the arts, and 3) to provide community service learning and teaching opportunities for LU students in the visual and performing arts in local schools.

Although K-12 teachers and university scholars share classroom time together, each lesson, as it fits into teachers' curricula, is researched, developed and taught by ArtsBridge scholars. These services are at no cost to the scholar, teacher or school. ArtsBridge scholars will develop, with the direction of a teacher, a project plan to be administered to their class over the course of a term. Project plans serve as creative learning outlines that integrate teachers' curricula with university scholars' expertise in the arts.

In order to support the transition from university student to “scholar”, each university student meets with an ArtsBridge staff member or LU faculty mentor on a regular basis. Staff members/mentors work closely with ArtsBridge scholars to provide emotional and technical support. As with all the players in this inclusive program, staff members/mentors observe scholars in the classroom and evaluate them on clarity of presentation, use of time and involvement of teachers in planned lessons.

LU ArtsBridge leads the way for university education programs to join hands with state educational departments as national and local standards in arts education are initiated. LU ArtsBridge offers its scholars valuable opportunities to gain a better understanding of arts education, teaching and the educational system, and provides K-12 classroom teachers with professional development and support in teaching the arts.

## **Internet Resources**

Please peruse the following websites to gather more in-depth information about ArtsBridge, teacher/scholar relationships and samples of project plans.

- ArtsBridge America National Website  
<http://www.artsbridgeamerica.com>
  
- ArtsBridge at the University of California at Irvine  
<http://www.arts.uci.edu/artsbridge>
  
- ArtsBridge at the University of Utah  
<http://www.artsbridge.utah.edu>

## **For more information please contact:**

Thea Vandervoort  
Director, Lawrence University ArtsBridge  
International House  
[thea.vandervoort@lawrence.edu](mailto:thea.vandervoort@lawrence.edu)  
832-6523