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UM HOSTS NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ARTFUL EDUCATION

MISSOULA --

About 400 educators from throughout the nation will gather at The University of Montana—Missoula June 19-21 for an intensive three-day conference that will focus on the literary, visual and performing arts as integral parts of education.


"The focus of this conference is really examining what we have learned in the last 20 years about how we learn and how best to reform and improve the quality of education from K-12 on up to higher ed," said James Kriley, dean of UM's School of Fine Arts.

"Traditionally, the role of the arts in education has been important but narrow," confined to specific courses, Kriley said. The move now is to recognize that background in and appreciation for the arts facilitate learning and enrich the educational experience in all subject areas. Arts education provides students with essential real-world survival skills, he said.

"Education in the arts teaches collaboration, teaches teamwork and sets up opportunities for students to explore their personal values, to understand themselves through expression," Kriley said. "It focuses on development of interpersonal skills, critical thinking and creative thinking."

Featured speakers include Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, professor of human development and
education at the University of Chicago and author of the national bestseller "Flow: The Psychology of Optimal Experience"; David O'Fallon, executive director of the Minnesota Center for Arts Education and former director of the Arts in Education Program for the National Endowment for the Arts; Boston College psychology Professor Ellen Winner, a senior research associate at Harvard Project Zero and specialist in children's development through the arts; UM English Professor Beverly Ann Chin, president of the National Council of Teachers of English; author and University of Idaho Professor Mary Clearman Blew; and national arts advocate Graham Down of Washington, D.C.

Registration costs $150 for the full three-day conference or $50 for Friday, June 21, the day of Gardner's keynote address. Preregistration is required and will be accepted, on a space-available basis, through June 18. To register or for more information, call the UM School of Fine Arts, (406) 243-4970.

The conference is offered in conjunction with the School of Fine Arts' annual summer graduate program for master teachers in arts and humanities, "The Creative Pulse." Other Genesis sponsors are the Montana Office of Public Instruction's Framework for Aesthetic Literacy and the Montana Arts Council.

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Reporters, editors, news directors: Photos and biographical information on featured speakers are available through University Communications, (406) 243-2522.
Contact: James Kriley, (406) 243-4970.

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