



PRESS RELEASE

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Drew Williams Receives Arts Schools Network Award

On June 1, 2022, Drew Williams, Ed.D., Principal at Utah Arts Academy (UAA), received the 2022 Jeffrey Lawrence Award from the **Arts Schools Network (ASN)**, the nation's largest professional membership organization of specialized arts schools. This award is granted to the head of an Arts Schools Network member organization who exemplifies an uncompromising commitment to excellence in arts education and arts training. Named in honor of the long-time head of the Professional Children's School in New York, this is the most coveted award presented by ASN to an arts administrator. The award will be presented at ASN's annual conference Oct. 26-28, 2022 in Las Vegas, NV.

Dr. Drew Williams earned his Masters in Educational Leadership and his Doctorate of Education in Strategic Planning and Organizational Theory. Having performed for three decades as a professional touring and studio musician, as well as serving as a dedicated educator and administrator, Drew found the perfect fit in an arts-focused school. Always an advocate for arts education, Drew's interest in creating UAA was the perfect way to blend his educational passion with an environment to advance students' abilities and excel creatively. Drew began his journey as a woodshop teacher, and when he and his wife decided to move to Nashville, TN., they both continued to play music and work in education.

Drew also excels as an artist and creator. He came to St. George, Utah by way of Nashville, where he worked at a professional level unknowingly training to bring his precision of craft, performance, and production to a variety of artforms. Drew is a bit of a perfectionist. Performance and final product is of the important to him. He believes deeply in a well-crafted, highly polished product and will work tirelessly to achieve this standard. He is more than a consumer and participant of art; he is a true creator. This is all reflected in the new school that he founded, which is now thriving.



Dedicated to excellence and leadership in arts education, Arts Schools Network, a non-profit professional organization founded in 1981, is a dynamic resource for arts school leaders, innovative partners and members of arts education institutions. Its mission is to provide leaders in arts schools with quality resources, support, and networking opportunities. ASN has provided communications, programs, services, conferences and events to support these goals for over 40 years. Visit the website at www.artsschoolsnetwork.org to learn more.

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