



# PRESS RELEASE

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## ***UNITED ARTS CELEBRATES THE ARTS IN EDUCATION***

**ORLANDO – February 28, 2014** – United Arts of Central Florida hosted more than 300 arts, education and community leaders at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Principals Appreciation Breakfast yesterday.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Mary Palmer, president of Mary Palmer & Associates, LLC., highlighted how integrating the arts throughout all courses can be more impactful than adding more art classes. From teaching the butterfly lifecycle using the classical piece, *Musette* by J.S. Bach to understanding the complex angles of geometry through an interpretive dance, Palmer shared ways various arts disciplines can be used for active learning.

The event also featured performances by the 2014 Orange County Public Schools All-County Jazz Band as well as Winter Park High School's a cappella groups, Take 7 and NSO. Artwork created by Advanced Placement Art Program students decorated the ballroom.

"Studies repeatedly show the positive impact exposure to arts in the classroom can have on academic performance," stated Linda Landman Gonzalez, Chairwoman, United Arts Board of Directors. "We wanted to thank the leadership of Orange County Public Schools for keeping arts alive in Central Florida classrooms and discuss how together we can continue to improve the future of our students."

As Florida implements more rigorous education standards, the arts become even more important to help students grow into adults who provide the diversity of leadership and experience needed for a thriving community. Arts teachers and non-arts teachers alike must integrate standards across all content areas. By making the commitment to retain certified arts teachers in every school, the principals honored at this breakfast have helped ensure all students have access to high-quality arts education.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Principals Appreciation Breakfast was sponsored by United Arts of Central Florida and funded through Orange County Arts and Cultural Affairs.

United Arts serves residents and visitors in Lake, Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties through more than 50 local arts, sciences and history organizations. It raises and distributes funds for these cultural groups and provides management, administrative and advisory services.

Now entering its 25<sup>th</sup> year of service to the Central Florida community, United Arts has invested more than \$126 million in local organizations and education since its founding in 1989.

More information is available at [www.UnitedArts.cc](http://www.UnitedArts.cc) or by calling 407-628-0333.



(front row) United Arts Board Chair, Linda Landman Gonzalez; OCPS Superintendent Barbara Jenkins; keynote speaker, Dr. Mary Palmer; (back row) actor Jay T. Becker, who's is playing Charles Dickens for the year-long "What the Dickens?" celebration and United Arts President and CEO, Flora Maria Garcia at the 8th Annual Principals Appreciation Breakfast, sponsored by United Arts of Central Florida and funded by the Orange County Arts and Cultural Affairs office. (photo credit United Arts of Central Florida)

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