



Illinois Art Education Association

## Press Release

Illinois Art Education Association  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ILLINOIS ART EDUCATION ASSOCIATION NAMES STATE AWARD WINNER

### Rusty Clevenger

The Illinois Art Education Association has named Rusty Clevenger of Prairie and Wiley Elementary Schools in Urbana, IL the 2014 Illinois Early Professional award winner. This award recognizes the exemplary contributions, service and achievements of one outstanding IAEA member annually. The award will be presented at the Illinois Art Education Association conference at the Shearton in Lisle, IL on November 7th, 2014. Mr. Clevenger is a resident of Champaign, Illinois.

Rusty Clevenger has been teaching elementary art in Urbana School District #116 at Prairie and Wiley Elementary in Urbana, IL since the fall of 2009. Mr. Clevenger continually develops new ways to teach and deliver completely unique curriculum including the third grade fashion unit. This learning experience created the opportunity for students to explore historical costume design and construct their own apparel using paper machè and fabric dyeing methods and constructions. The final student designs were showcased in an all school assembly fashion show. Additionally, Mr. Clevenger has fostered multiple community partnerships to display artwork, collaborate on lessons, and provide experiences for his students including the Krannert Center of Performing Arts, Urbana Arts Council, University of Illinois Center of Small Urban Communities, and Krannert Art Museum. Recently, he teamed up with Krannert Art Museum to develop "Week at the Museum" (KAM-WAM). Fifth graders attend school at the Krannert Art Museum all day for an entire week, connecting art with all curricular areas.

Mr. Clevenger also teaches Open Art Studio and Digital Art Studio at the Urbana Middle School's S.P.L.A.S.H. & 21st Century Learning after-school program. Open Art Studio provides middle school students with a chance to learn and create art based on

contemporary artists and visual art displayed within the Champaign-Urbana community. Digital Art Studio Provides students with an opportunity to view and create artwork that incorporates methods of technology.

Mr. Clevenger is a presenter at local, state, and national levels. He has co-presented at the, JoLLE Conference Athens, GA, University of Illinois Chancellor' Academy, Champaign –Urbana IL, and the National Art Education Association Convention in San Diego, CA. When not teaching and sharing expertise, Mr. Clevenger creates his own artwork primarily through video and photography and most recently, textile art methods.

The IAEA is an association of the art educators of Illinois. The organization has been serving the children and art educators of Illinois for over 75 years by providing professional development for educators through workshops, conferences, grants, exhibition opportunities, facilitating communication, promoting conditions for the effective teaching of art, and working to influence educational change and reform.