
Academy of Visual & Performing Arts Culver City High School

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For Immediate Release

Culver City High Music Teacher Wins Fellowship for AVPA

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The Surdna Arts Teacher Fellowship Program, a venture of the Surdna Foundation's Arts Program, recently announced this year's round of Fellowship recipients and Dr. Tony Spano, Jr. was among those honored. A music teacher at Culver City High School and the Music Director for the Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA), Spano will receive \$5,000 from the Arts Teacher Fellowship Program. As part of the award, AVPA will receive a complementary grant of \$1,500 to support post fellowship activities.



When she heard about the Surdna fellowship, Dr. Laura McGaughey, Superintendent of the Culver City Schools, said, "Dr. Spano is well deserving of this prestigious distinction. To have our Academy of Visual and Performing Arts teachers getting such national recognition is a tribute to their talent and success. Our students in Culver City benefit from their expertise, hard work and talent."

Dr. Spano plans to use the fellowship to attend the World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles 12th International Conference in Singapore this summer. Attending workshops, concerts and master classes with internationally known teachers, conductors and musicians will fill his time while he's there.

"I am honored to have been awarded this fellowship. It will help me continue to inspire students in our academy program and assemble creative projects for them," said Dr. Spano.

The Surdna's Foundation's Arts program aims to improve the artistic abilities of teens. The goal of the Surdna Arts Teacher Fellowship Program is to support the artistic revitalization of their arts teachers. Surdna's goal is to help them increase their effectiveness as they guide and train young people for careers or advanced study in the visual or performing arts.

The Surdna Foundation awarded \$150,000 to arts teachers in this national competition. Twenty-three outstanding teachers representing 16 public arts high schools from around the country were selected from an initial pool of 62 applicants. The teachers excel in a broad spectrum of visual and performing arts.

Award recipients were evaluated by a peer review panel based on demonstrated excellence both as artists and teachers. All permanently assigned, full- and part-time arts faculty in specialized, public arts high schools were eligible to submit applications.

"We're thrilled to be able to offer these fellowships to teachers of the arts. By focusing on their own creative work and interacting with professional artists and colleagues, these teachers are exposed to new ideas and practices that they can carry back to the classroom. After five rounds of fellowships-and 100 fellows-we've witnessed the transformative effect of the fellowship experience on both the individuals and the schools," said Edward Skloot, Surdna's Executive Director.

For more information about the Surdna Foundation, a national family foundation established in 1917, go to www.surdna.org.

The Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA) at Culver City High School offers a comprehensive arts curriculum after regular school hours for students who are committed to excellence in Art, Film, Theatre, Dance, and Music. Established in 1996, AVPA enjoys tremendous community support from SONY and other design, recording, and theatre companies in the area. For more information, go to www.avpa.org or contact Darryl Hovis at 310-842-4200 x6009.

Photo Caption: Dr. Tony Spano, Jr., Surdna Fellowship recipient