As previously announced, Rosalynn will be retiring from her position as the Program Director of the OKA+ Schools Institute at the University of Central Oklahoma next month.

Please join us in honoring her 21-year legacy at her retirement party:

Thursday, June 29th 2023 2:00-4:00 PM
UCO, Old North Building, Third Floor--MidFirst Conference Room

Visitor parking will be available in Lot 57 at the corner of University Dr. and Campbell St. Please use parking code WADE23 for free parking.

Kari--a longtime OKA+ Fellow--has been announced as the Oklahoma A+ Schools Institute's next Program Director!

Kari is beginning the transition into her new role this month, working closely with Rosalynn on learning how to continue OKA+'s successes. She will begin officially on June 5 and will work side by side with Rosalynn until Rosalynn’s retirement on July 1. They are both looking forward to this time to work together for a smooth transition!

Read more about Kari in the latest installment of our "OKA+ Spotlight Series" on page 4!
Register now for summer workshop offerings!

Open to ALL Educators!

Two workshop sessions offered both Wednesday, July 19th and Wednesday, July 26th from 12:30-3:45 PM @ UCO in Edmond. Come for one or both afternoons and experience two workshops each day!

July 19th Session "A":

_Scribbles, Wiggles, and Giggles: the Start of Writing with Confidence (PK-8)_

Have you noticed that students across grade levels can feel daunted or defeated by the writing process? Some feel they have nothing to say OR the young ones feel like they just “can’t “ do it. Jumpstart their confidence and creativity, by teaching writing embedded in music, dance, and attached to socio-emotional concepts to help students engage with writing no matter their confidence level.

_Music & Poetry: Exploring Beat & Rhythm (PK-8)_

Explore beat and rhythmic structures through music & poetry with this hands-on, interactive workshop. Identifying these elements in a multi-disciplinary setting will allow participants to make cross-curricular connections, experience creative exploration, and promote self-regulation for neurotypical and neurodivergent learners. Body percussion, hand percussion, and collaboration will be used in this fun, accessible workshop!

_Know Your Roots (1-8)_

Want to expand your knowledge of a foreign language, unpack OAS ELA standard 4 AND create a dynamic piece of art? Then THIS IS THE WORKSHOP FOR YOU! But wait...there's more! You will also walk away with a clear path to integrate ALL 8 of the A+ Essentials in this 90 minute moment in time! Don't let another second go by without signing up yourself and your friends!

_Character of Nutrition (5-9)_

You are what you eat.. so they say! Nutrition is tough! It is hard to understand why the foods we love treat our bodies so badly! What if it wasn’t tough? What if you knew exactly what was going into your body and how it affects you mentally and physically. Let’s journey into the facts about nutrition!

July 19th Session "B":

_Sew On and Sew Forth (PK-12)_

Not your grandma’s quilt! Come explore how the design and creation of quilts can reflect stories of the past and present through narratives, patterns, and data visualization - without using a needle and thread. Explore powerful storytelling in modern ways to connect you, your students, and your curriculum as you build community while honoring individual uniqueness. Learn how to integrate quilting into your visual art, math, ELA, and social studies standards with tools and supplies that you already have in your classroom.

_Illuminated Characters! (K-8)_

Make connections to character and story through the science of light and shadow! Join in this fun, hands-on workshop experimenting with the effects of light and shadow using creative drama and the art of shadow puppetry. This art form is adaptable for younger and older grades. Two way arts integration will be demonstrated with theatre, visual arts, science, and ELA standards.

_The Creative Classroom (PK-5)_

Get creative! Imaginative! Inspire “solutionary” thinking! Do your students crave connection between curriculum and real world problem solving? Do you want to turn up the volume of excitement for learning in the classroom? Do you need fresh research on the importance of creativity? In this workshop we will dive into the Williams Taxonomy: The 8 Creative Thinking Skills, and we will design centers that allow for purposeful, curriculum-connected activities that give students the freedom to play with ideas, create new possibilities, build connections, and imagine unique solutions.

_The Blues Workshop (3-12)_

Got the Blues? Take this interactive, writing-focused Blues music workshop to learn how to understand, write, and perform The Blues! The Blues Workshop will also integrate basic Blues music concepts to improve and foster writing skills in your classroom. Come join us for a workshop full of writing, singing, and performing your own Blues songs!
**July 26th Session "A":**

**I've Got a Feelin'!** (PK-2)
Come and play as we explore the works of Todd Parr as an author and illustrator! His texts will provide inspiration as we utilize play as a tool for supporting social and emotional development as well as the whole child, including those who have experienced trauma.

**Show What You Know: Comics as Enriched Assessment** (1- adults)
Let your students tap into their critical thinking skills by introducing them to drawing comics and storyboarding. In this workshop, you will learn an easy way to teach students how to draw identifiable characters using the Ivan Brunetti method. We will also practice the visual art/creative writing exercises developed by Lynda Barry. With these newfound skills, application crosses all subjects and the assessment opportunities are endless! We will experiment with storyboards and collaborative drawing, and brainstorm application of these new tools to the disciplines you teach and with your own students.

**English Language Learners: Keeping them engaged in reading and math** (K-8)
Our brains are made to learn language IN CONTEXT! Engage all learners using creative drama and visual arts to reinforce language acquisition and vocabulary. Visual reinforcement and natural language role playing helps students to build fluency and comprehension while being creative and having fun! This workshop is geared toward English Language Learners but can easily be applied to all students!

**Growing with A+: Agriculture** (3-6)
How can integrated learning get students excited about learning Oklahoma’s biggest business, agriculture? We will work in teams and engage using free data resources, visual art concepts, and explore the use of the A+ Essentials. We want to help students understand what agriculture is and why it is vital to our lives.

**OKA+ Network School educators:** FREE

**Non-OKA+ Network educators:** $30  **OKA+ Associate School educators:** $10

[Register for July 19th here](#)  **[Register for July 26th here](#)**

**July 26th Session "B":**

**Know Your Roots** (1-8)
Want to expand your knowledge of a foreign language, unpack OAS ELA standard 4 AND create a dynamic piece of art? Then THIS IS THE WORKSHOP FOR YOU! But wait... there’s more! You will also walk away with a clear path to integrate ALL 8 of the A+ Essentials in this 90 minute moment in time! Don’t let another second go by without signing up yourself and your friends!

**A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words!** (PK-6 + adults)
With technology present in every part of our lives and at all ages, we will reframe how we use our phones and technology to become creative and intentional storytellers. Just like photographers who have changed history, your students will get behind the camera lens and explore new ways to see math, science, literature, social studies, music and more....all while telling a greater story! We will dive into conveying ideas, igniting emotions, and crossing language barriers! Come take photographs, create a portfolio, and become meaningful storytellers as we connect our curriculum to the power of photography.

**Thinking Outside the Boxes: Interdisciplinary Arts and Project Based Learning** (PK-6 + adults)
Go deeper with learning by allowing students the agency to follow their interests and curiosity, make connections across curriculum, gain valuable collaborative and critical thinking skills, and involve all types of learners through multi-disciplinary, arts integrated project based learning!! Discover ways to engage all students while effectively assessing their knowledge of content!

**Enriched Formative Assessments Made Easy**
Tired of running off and grading worksheets? Are your students tired of them, too? Worksheets may have their place, but can’t compare to the benefits enriched assessment can provide for you and your kiddoes! Come and learn about how formative assessments can be done easily through arts-integrated practices.
Kari Elledge, Incoming Program Director for OKA+ Schools Institute

Kari's first experience with OKA+ was during her first teaching job at Millwood Freshman Academy where her new principal, Christine Harrison, introduced her to the Network. She was hooked on OKA+ immediately and in 2010 received an invitation to become an OKA+ Fellow. As a teacher, the A+ Essentials helped her create an educational environment that engaged her students. Through arts integration and experiential learning, she was able to teach rigorous content in ways that students were excited about and able to recall later because it was tied to experiences. A+ also made teaching more enjoyable for her, allowing her to engage her curiosity and creativity. It ignited a passion for education which in turn inspired her students.

As OKA+'s Program Director, Kari is looking forward to working with schools full-time, sharing the power of arts integration in education, and sharing how the implementation of the A+ Essentials creates an environment that fosters curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking, ultimately empowering teachers and students in their quest for knowledge.

Be sure to say hello to Kari when you see her at the next OKA+ event!

Don't MISS

- OKA+ offices close at noon on Fridays until July 28th
- OKA+ offices closed Monday, June 19th -- Juneteenth
- Rosalynn Wade's retirement party Thursday, June 29th 2:00-4:00
  - MidFirst Conference Room in Old North at UCO in Edmond

QUESTIONS? Aplusmail@uco.edu

Kick off the 2023-’24 school year with OKA+!

Contact your regional coordinator to schedule your pre-service PD

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