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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Arts Education Researcher Providing Free Symposium

San José, CA – James Catterall, Professor of Education at the University of California, Los Angeles, will be the featured speaker at a free arts education symposium sponsored by Cultural Initiatives Silicon Valley. The symposium takes place on November 14th at 6:30pm, at Le Petit Trianon Theatre in downtown San José.

James Catterall is renowned for his research on the involvement of the arts in human development. In a 10-year study of over 25,000 students, Catterall found that, regardless of socio-economic status, students receiving arts education were more likely to perform better in school and demonstrate stronger leadership skills.

“The arts are great potential partners in both academic and nonacademic learning,” says Catterall.

The symposium is offered as part of Cultural Initiatives’ professional development efforts for teachers of Santa Clara County. Professional development is one component of Cultural Initiatives’ Creative Education Program, the primary goal of which is to return arts to the curriculum in Santa Clara County public schools.

“The purpose of the symposium is to eliminate information barriers that commonly exist between researchers and educators,” says Dana Powell, Director of the Creative Education Program. “This symposium will enable teachers to gain valuable knowledge about successful arts education programs.”

In addition to professional development, Cultural Initiatives’ Creative Education Program also provides cash grants and technical assistance to public elementary schools in Santa Clara County. A team of arts education consultants works 20 hours per month with each grant site to support its arts program goals. The success of the Creative Education Program has been far-reaching, with 75% of the elementary school districts currently participating in the program, and over 68,000 students served.

Cultural Initiatives Silicon Valley is a nonprofit organization formed in response to the research and planning efforts of over 1,000 committed community leaders, and the development of a comprehensive plan for the cultural transformation of Silicon Valley.

Catterall Arts Education Symposium. November 14th, 6:30-8:30p.m. Le Petit Trianon Theatre. 72 N. 5th Street, San José. Registration required. Register online (www.ci-sv.org), by phone (408.283.3409) or by email (aimee@ci-sv.org).

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