



A CENTER FOR YOUTH ENTERPRISE

For Immediate Release

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ARTSTECH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Kansas City, Mo., January 28, 2021 – ArtsTech’s Board of Directors accepted Executive Director David J. Sullivan’s retirement request, effective summer 2021. Mr. Sullivan spent 43+ years serving our marginalized and disenfranchised youth and their families at ArtsTech and the DeLaSalle Education Center.

Mr. Sullivan’s accomplishments and reputation in the community are remarkable. As a 1970 graduate of the original De La Salle High School, his first job was as a counselor at the current DeLaSalle Education Center (DLSEC). In his 21 years at DLSEC, he was the school’s principal from 1988-1993 and then Deputy Director in charge of expansion until he left in 1998. During his tenure at DLSEC, Mr. Sullivan created numerous therapeutic, parenting, and substance abuse prevention youth programs. As the school’s principal, he doubled the enrollment, added a residential drug treatment program (CSTAR), and increased graduation rates. He was instrumental in having the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education approve his plan to issue a high school diploma for young people earning a GED. This practice is now implemented statewide and is known as the Missouri Options program.

In 1998, Mr. Sullivan took over the Pan-Educational Institute, which changed its name to ArtsTech in 2007. As its executive director, he reinvented the organization to broaden its mission and produce significant measurable outcomes. While ArtsTech’s leader, he also served as interim executive director for Project Neighborhood and the Alternative Schools Network Association. Since 1998, ArtsTech has tripled its operating budget, operated an AdvancED accredited suspension school for KCPS, managed the MyARTS program with the Jackson County Prosecutor’s Office, and served as the fiscal sponsor and partner for the Kansas City No Violence Alliance, UNESCO, African American Artist Collective, and other organizations needing management support.

ArtsTech is a youth development nonprofit that has high expectations for all its young people, including learning how to be self-sufficient, living a healthy lifestyle with positive family and social relationships, and being engaged community members who contribute to society through political awareness, civic involvement, and their community’s well-being.

Mr. Sullivan plans to stay involved with the Kansas City community as an executive coach, teaching, program developer, and an advocate for youth policy needs and concerns. His commitment and passion for all youth to succeed is unwavering.



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In February 2021, the ArtsTech Board of Directors will publicly announce its plans for its search of a new executive director and the selection process to find a new leader.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we want to express our overwhelming gratitude and appreciation for Mr. Sullivan's more than 43 years of service to his community. His steadfast commitment and perseverance to providing better opportunities so young people can make better choices will be missed. Congratulations on his well-deserved retirement.

About ArtsTech

ArtsTech's mission is to better the lives of underserved urban youth through the development of artistic, technical, health, and educational skills. To learn more about ArtsTech and to support our youth through financial contributions, please go to our website – www.artstech-kc.org.