



Kansas City Media Contact:
Becca Booth
becca@troutmarketing.com
National Media Contact:
Dori Rhodes
dori@nceca.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NATIONAL COUNCIL ON EDUCATION FOR THE CERAMIC ARTS (NCECA)
CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR AREA STUDENTS**
50th Annual Conference to be held March 16-19, 2016 in Kansas City, MO

Kansas City, MO: The National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) will host the 50th annual conference March 16-19, 2016 in Kansas City Convention Center. NCECA is excited to offer single day pass scholarships to 100 students and 10 teachers from Kansas City area high schools.

Students and teachers from schools located in the Kansas City Metro (including schools between Lawrence, KS and St. Joseph, MO) in grades 9-12 are eligible to apply for the Val Cushing Memorial Scholarship. Scholarship recipients will be given the opportunity to attend the 2016 NCECA Conference for free thanks to the generous support of donations from Anne W. Bracker of Bracker's Good Earth Clay and long-time NCECA member and retired Slippery Rock University professor, Richard Wukich, who was mentored by Val Cushing during his formative years at Alfred University.

"Val took me to the very first NCECA conference in East Lansing, Michigan in 1967. My support of this scholarship is a way of paying forward his generosity as a teacher and the influence of his expansive vision on my life," writes Wukich.

The conference theme, *Makers, Mentors and Milestones* will explore the personal, social, and aesthetic forces that animate creative work with elemental materials, methods and ideas in the midst of the information age. NCECA anticipates over 5,000 attendees including artists, students, teachers, collectors and enthusiasts. Local residents are encouraged to participate through a variety of free public events and exhibitions including the Gallery Expo, keynote speakers, the 24th Annual Cup Sales and more.

The scholarships were created in memory of Val Cushing, Alfred University professor emeritus of ceramics and founding member of NCECA, who passed away in 2013. His work has been exhibited across the United States and he was passionate about educating the ceramic artists of the future.

"NCECA 50th annual conference in Kansas City will provide an incredible experience for regional teachers and their students," said Bracker. "The educational possibilities are endless - viewing the ceramic work of national artists at area galleries, attending lectures, demonstrations, and panels. Most importantly, students and teachers will



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come into contact with many of the finest artist/craftsmen in the field in the field today. I am pleased to help teachers and students, who represent the future of the field, access this opportunity.”

NCECA will make scholarship day passes available to 10 teachers and 100 students from public schools in located the greater Kansas City area including Lawrence.

Interested teachers must contact Jacqueline Hardy at office@nceca.net. In the email, teachers must provide their names and personal contact information, the name and contact information for their school, their preferred date (Thursday, March 17 or Friday, March 18, 2016 are recommended) and the first and last names of their students. Schools will be responsible for heir food and transportation. NCECA will not be able to respond to requests for scholarship passes without student names.

Scholarships will be made to eligible schools on a first come-first served basis.

ADDITIONAL STUDENT EVENTS:

NCECA 2016 Student Juried Exhibition:

March 4th-April 30th, 2016

Leedy-Voulikos Art Center (2012 Baltimore Ave., KCMO)

Featuring undergraduate, graduate and post-baccalaureate students from across the United States. Juried by Liz Quackenbush and Lee Somers.

K12 Exhibition:

Reception: March 16th, 4:30-5:30pm

March 16th (10:00am-6:00pm), March 17th (10:00am-5:00pm), March 18th (10:00am-4:00pm)

Bartle Hall, 3501 E/F, Level II

An annual competition and exhibition of K-12 ceramic students to showcase their ceramic art. Designed to showcase the best K12 ceramic art from across the country.

ABOUT NCECA: NCECA, the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts, is a dynamic membership organization that fosters global education and appreciation for the ceramic arts. NCECA’s programs, exhibitions and public events promote and improve the ceramic arts through education, community building, research and creative inspiration. NCECA offers programs, events and publications to support its membership



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of artists, educators, students, individual and corporate art patrons, gallery owners, museum curators and providers of ceramic arts related products and services. For more information, visit www.nceca.net.

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