



July 28, 2009

Interested Art Teachers:

I would like to introduce myself as Kris Swank, I am a member of the Cancer Culture & Community (CCC) project through the Oncological Sciences Center in Discovery Park. Let me introduce our program with a brief history.

BACKGROUND:

The Oncological Sciences Center, the Discovery Park arm of the Purdue Cancer Center, in partnership with the Department of English in the College of Liberal Arts founded the Cancer Culture and Community (CCC) Program in 2007 to explore the human response to cancer as expressed through literature and the visual and performing arts. Last year, we expanded the program to include the Division of Theatre to act out scenes from *W;t* our selected literary work by Pulitzer Prize winning playwright, Margaret Edson. This year we are expanding the program further to include the Division of Art and Design, the Division of Music, and the Division of Dance. The featured artist for the 2009 CCC Colloquium, which will be held November 5-6, is the 2006 Poet Laureate of the United States, Donald Hall. Mr. Hall is considered one of the major American poets of his generation.

PROPOSAL:

Exciting features of the 2009 CCC Colloquium are: the inclusion of portions of Mr. Hall's work in the fall curricula for Purdue English, Art and Design, Music and Theatre students who will create original works (designs, music and written compositions) for display during the November 5-6 event. A truly innovative feature this year will be the performance of an original, contemporary dance piece by members of the Division of Dance as an introduction to Mr. Hall's public presentation in Fowler Hall. Over 700 graduate and undergraduate students in the College of Liberal Arts will participate in the 2009 CCC Colloquium.

REQUESTED ACTION:

This year we would like to include art students from local high schools to help us develop and launch a community piece. In the future we would like to see the Greater Lafayette community involved as a whole, and this would be our first step toward that goal.

With your insight and assistance in introducing this topic to the students and including it in your fall curriculum, we would like the students to contribute original works of art inspired by struggles with cancer to be displayed during the 2009 CCC Colloquium.

I would be very interested in meeting with you to discuss the possibilities that exist for this project further. Please contact me at kswank@purdue.edu, or you can call me at 494-4674.

THANK YOU!

The *Cancer Culture and Community* committee appreciates your consideration of partnering with us to bring this unique and important program to the Greater Lafayette community.