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WATCH EDUCATION DANCE!

More than 200 students from 9 local schools to perform international dances at one time performance

ST. LOUIS, MO December 11, 2007 – Springboard to Learning & Young Audiences of St. Louis is pleased to announce the details of the upcoming 24th Annual International Dance Festival featuring elementary and middle school students from nine St. Louis Public, County and Archdiocesan schools.

Only nine schools in the St. Louis region are chosen to participate in the event, which was created by Dr. Carlos Miranda in St. Louis Public Schools 24 years ago. In the program, students participate in a residency featuring curriculum about the culture of a foreign country including Haiti, Japan, Brazil, Ireland, Guadeloupe, Columbia, India and Africa. One special class from each school is chosen to learn a traditional folk dance in addition to the regular curriculum and then perform for the public at the festival. Each child wears a traditional, colorful costume that is custom designed by volunteers.

“The International Dance Festival has always been a very important part of our mission,” said Barbara Carswell, Executive Director of Springboard to Learning & Young Audiences. “In this age of globalization, students are offered the unique opportunity to broaden their horizons and learn about other cultures through the art of dance.”

The 24th Annual International Dance Festival will be held Tuesday, December 11th from 12:00 PM-1:00 PM at Union Avenue Christian Church, 733 Union Boulevard near the Central West End. Diana M. Bourisaw, Ph.D., Superintendent St. Louis Public Schools will be this year’s emcee. The event is free and open to the public.

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This year's participating schools include: **Ames Visual and Performing Arts Academy, Bunche International Studies Middle School, Downtown Academy at Patrick Henry, Gateway Elementary School, Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School, Kennard Classical Junior Academy, Mason Elementary School and Old Bonhomme Elementary (Ladue School District).**

Funding for this year's Dance Festival is made possible through grants from the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency and MetLife Dance for Life.

We invite you to join us at the Dance Festival! Call Cory Smallwood at her office 314-289-4128 if you have any questions.

About Springboard to Learning & Young Audiences of St. Louis

The mission of Springboard to Learning & Young Audiences of St. Louis is to provide art, cultural, humanities and science programs in schools and community organizations that inspire students and teachers to embrace knowledge and new experiences that broaden their horizons. Springboard to Learning & Young Audiences of St. Louis is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that offers more than 230 unique educational programs to close to 100,000 students in the greater St. Louis area.