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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 10, 2008 – Springboard to Learning & Young Audiences of St. Louis is excited to celebrate 25 years of excellence with the 25th Annual International Dance Festival featuring elementary and middle school students from nine St. Louis Public schools on Wednesday, December 10, 2008..

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 25 years ago. Students participate in a residency featuring curriculum about the culture of countries including Haiti, Japan, USA, Ireland, Guadeloupe, Columbia, India and the Congo. 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 25th Annual International Dance Festival will be held Wednesday, December 10th from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM at Union Avenue Christian Church, 733 Union Boulevard near the Central West End. Award winning storyteller Bobby Norfolk will be this year’s emcee. As a special addition, a documentary about the history of the dance festival will be shown to start the show. 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, Cole Elementary School, Dewey IS Elementary School, Farragut Elementary School, Langston Middle School, Peabody eMints, Scruggs Elementary School and Woerner Elementary School.**

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 177 unique educational programs to close to 78,000 students in the greater St. Louis area.