

News Release

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Arkansas Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts Presents Educational Materials to Arkansas A+ Schools

“Growing Champion Classrooms” Project to Serve Arkansas Educators

Little Rock, AR – The Arkansas Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts (ACNMWA), a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to promoting awareness of the work of Arkansas female artists, recently presented the results of its educational initiative related to the current ACNMWA touring exhibit *Arkansas Champion Trees: An Artist’s Journey, Drawings by Linda Williams Palmer* to Melanie Landrum, Executive Director of Arkansas A+ Schools.

The initiative, titled “Growing Champion Classrooms”, features large poster reproductions of original drawings from the exhibit and art lesson plans with activities for K-2, 3-5, and 6-8th grade students. Arkansas artist authors Virmarie DePoyster and Laura Krannichfeld Walden formulated the lesson plans to meet State Frameworks and incorporate Common Core guidelines. ACNMWA produced the classroom materials with the support of Entergy Arkansas grants in 2013 and 2014, and a 2013 grant from the School of Forest Resources at the University of Arkansas at Monticello. The program is also supported in part by the Arkansas Arts Council, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, and by the National Endowment for the Arts.

ACNMWA President Marta Jones of Fort Smith acknowledged that the completion of the educational initiative “Growing Champion Classrooms” is the culmination of the exhibit

project that ACNMWA organized as a public service in 2012. “Growing Champion Classrooms” is one way we can continue to contribute to the cultural life of our state after the exhibit tour ends. Arkansas A+ Schools pedagogy is transforming teaching and learning across the state, and we are confident that A+ Fellows will make creative use of these excellent resources.”

Melanie Landrum/Arkansas A+ Quote

“Growing Champion Classrooms” posters and lesson plans are available to the public online for download and use through the Arkansas Forestry Association website (<http://www.arkforests.org/growingchampionclassrooms.html>) and the art exhibit website Education Resources page (<http://www.championtreese Exhibit.org/resources.php>). The exhibit tour concludes on December 6, 2014, with displays on the campus of the University of Arkansas at Monticello: the School of Forest Resources, the Spencer Fine Arts Gallery, and the Student Center Gallery Space. More information about the exhibit and additional educational materials can be found at www.ChampionTreesExhibit.com.

Arkansas A+ Schools is a research-based, whole-school network that views the arts as fundamental to teaching and learning in every subject. Eighteen Arkansas schools currently participate in the A+ Schools Program which is transforming public, charter, and private schools in rural, urban, and suburban locations in four states: North Carolina, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

The University of Arkansas at Monticello School of Forest Resources is the only forestry school in the State of Arkansas, appropriately located in the heart of Arkansas' timber-growing region. Housed in the Henry H. Chamberlin Forest Resources Complex and a component of the Arkansas Forest Resources Center, the School employs 13 faculty and offers two Bachelor of Science degrees, one Associate of Science degree, one Master of Science degree, and five minors. Dr. Philip A. Tappe, in addition to serving as Dean of the School, is the director of the Center which is a part of the University of Arkansas' Division of Agriculture.

Entergy Arkansas provides electricity to approximately 700,000 customers in 63 counties. Entergy Arkansas is a subsidiary of Entergy Corporation, an integrated energy company engaged primarily in electric power production and retail distribution operations. Entergy owns and operates power plants with approximately 30,000 megawatts of electric generating capacity, including more than 10,000 megawatts of nuclear power, making it one of the nation's leading nuclear generators. Entergy delivers electricity to 2.8 million utility customers in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. Entergy has annual revenues of more than \$11 billion and approximately 14,000 employees.

The Arkansas Committee of NMWA was founded in 1989 to ensure that female artists in Arkansas have the opportunity to present their work to audiences and to help them find mutual support through the Committee and other female artists. The Arkansas Committee has since been responsible for over 15 exhibitions featuring the work of

Arkansas women artists and has awarded 13 scholarships and eight internships to emerging female artists and art students. The Arkansas Committee has sponsored Arkansas artist exhibits at the national museum in Washington, D.C., and has funded the conservation of seven pieces from its permanent collection. For more information about the Arkansas Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts visit acnmwa.org.