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For Immediate Release

Coronado School of the Arts Welcomes New Director

Coronado, CA, September 2, 2010 – Coronado School of the Arts (CoSA) welcomes Kate McKnight as the new director of the arts school located on the campus of Coronado High School (CHS). Ms. McKnight was chosen after an in-depth search that included a host of talented applicants from throughout California. As both a vice-principal at CHS and Director of CoSA, Ms. McKnight will work closely with CHS Principal Karl Mueller and Assistant Principal Jennifer Moore. She will oversee the running of the CoSA program that includes professional training in classical and contemporary dance, digital media and filmmaking, instrumental music, musical theatre, technical theatre, and visual art, and act as the administrative liaison between CoSA, CHS, and the Coronado Unified School District.

A review of Ms. McKnight's resume reveals she is a perfect match for the position of CoSA Director. Most recently, she served eight years as the Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator for the Fresno Unified School District, supervising a faculty of 50. She has coordinated music programs for the elementary schools in the district, and worked as the Assistant Director for a performing arts school in Fresno. Her career in education began as a teacher of English and theatre at the high school level for eight years.

Ms. McKnight's passion for arts education has personal roots. She grew up studying classical piano, has a degree in acting from UC Santa Cruz, refers to herself as an experienced "props mistress," and enjoys creating assemblage art. She has appeared in two short films and had a supporting role in a full-length film, "Finding Hope Now," that will be released this fall. Her enthusiasm is infectious. "I am thrilled, honored, and excited to join the CHS/CoSA team and to work closely with the remarkable CoSA students," shares Ms. McKnight.

CoSA Program Founder and outgoing Director, Kris McClung gives Ms. McKnight a rousing endorsement. "Kate is clearly talented and interested in not only growing CoSA in innovative directions, but in maintaining the program's proven high standards." Principal Karl Mueller echoes this sentiment, "We enthusiastically welcome Kate McKnight and the energy and expertise that she will bring to the students of Coronado High School, our staff, and the greater San Diego Arts community. We look forward to Kate's contribution to the continued legacy of excellence in our award winning Coronado School of the Arts."

Kate McKnight begins her work at CoSA and CHS on September 7th. Look for her at the inaugural instrumental music concert in the black box theatre at CHS on the evening of October 4, when CoSA kicks off the 2010-2011 performance season.

CoSA is a public arts conservatory for high school students that embraces and encourages artistic creativity and academic excellence. This pre-professional arts program reaches out to talented students from all over San Diego County and offers a nurturing environment focused on individual growth, opportunity, and diversity. For more information on CoSA or the Foundation, call 619.522.4050 or visit www.cosafoundation.org.

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