

Alabama Arts Alliance,

It is my extreme pleasure and honor to recommend Dr. Kathy King for the 2022 Higher Education Arts Award. Dr. King is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Music Education at Auburn University. In her professional capacity, Dr. King spearheads the Music and Related Arts classes, which teaches pre-service elementary and early childhood majors to incorporate music, art, and dance into their elementary classes. Dr. King's influence and teaching ensures that there will always be music, art, and dance available to young students for generations to come. That is a legacy to strive for.

Dr. King also helped start a music program at Loachapoka Elementary School, where the undergraduate music education majors teach music in a school that does not have music, then in their second year in the program, mentor the first-year music education students. Through grants and collaboration, Dr. King and the Music Education department were able to acquire enough musical instruments to fully support this music program, run by AU Music Education students. This vision for bringing the arts into a Title I school that otherwise would not have music is just another reason why Dr. Kathy King is deserving of the Higher Education Arts Award.

Outside of the AU Music Education department, Dr. Kathy King plays the mountain dulcimer at the Harris Senior Center in Auburn, teaches private lessons in Auburn, and teaches group ukulele classes at a women's shelter in Chambers County. Throughout all these examples, I aim to celebrate and honor what Dr. King has meant to the state's arts program. She is a personal mentor of mine as I pursue my Ph.D. in Music Education at Auburn, and I cannot thank her enough for her loving-kindness. I believe that this is something that we can do for her-to award Dr. Kathy King the 2022 Higher Education Arts Award.

In harmony,

Christopher Loftin