

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release - May 27, 2008



For More Information Contact

Laura Winter, Interchange (314) 952-6561

Tom Wickersham, COCA (314) 725-6555

Interchange announces the appointment of Mark Cross as Director

Former teacher to head arts education collaborative with the St. Louis Public Schools

(St. Louis, MO) Interchange, the St. Louis-based arts education collaborative, has announced the appointment of Mark Cross as Director. An 11-year teacher in the St. Louis Public Schools, Cross heads up the arts education collaborative, which partners area arts and cultural organizations with the St. Louis Public Schools.

“Mark has a long history with the St. Louis Public Schools as a teacher. We are very pleased to be working with him now on our arts integration efforts,” said Paula Knight, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the St. Louis Public Schools.

Through Interchange, 30+ area arts and cultural organizations are supporting the work of St. Louis Public Schools teachers to engage students and improve outcomes. St. Louis is one of nine sites across the country funded by The Ford Foundation through its Integrating the Arts and Education Reform Initiative, which supports innovative arts integration pilots in urban public school systems.

Cross joins the three-year-old collaborative with an impressive background in law, healthcare administration and classroom teaching. Cross has worked in a variety of not-for-profit and public institutions in the United States and overseas. These organizations have served a wide-range of racial, ethnic, cultural and economically diverse populations. He has also worked at all levels of these organizations, enabling him to have a deeper understanding of work processes, employee relations and communication across organizational levels.

Cross joins Interchange from his most recent employment as a social studies teacher for grades 7-12 at a tribal school on the Muckleshoot Indian reservation near Auburn, Wash. Prior to the tribal school, he taught 11 years at Vashon High School in St. Louis.

Prior to his teaching career, Cross was an administrator with the Sisters of Mercy Health System. During his tenure there, he worked as the Administrator/COO at one of their small rural hospitals in Southwest Missouri and at a hospital in Guyana, South America.

Cross earned a B.A. from Washington State University, a J.D./Masters in healthcare administration from Saint Louis University and a teaching certificate in history from Harris-Stowe State College.

Cross replaces Lynne Glickert who has served as Interim Director since July 2007.

###