



## Academy of Visual and Performing Arts At Culver City High School

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### **AVPA Art Teacher Awarded Scholarship to Participate in Art21 Educators**

*For immediate release:*

**Culver City, CA – June 4, 2009:** Kristine Hatanaka, an art teacher at Culver City High School and Art Director for the Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA), is one of 16 teachers who has been selected nationwide to participate in the pilot year of the Art21 Educators initiative at New York University. As a member of the inaugural cohort, she will be joining a diverse group of passionate educators from across the country eager to support each other in the exploration, creation, and implementation of new teaching strategies and curricula inspired by contemporary art, artists, and ideas.



Networking with teachers from New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles, Mrs. Hatanaka will be working in a team with another visual art teacher and photographer, Lluvia Higuera, in a year-long initiative with the 5th PBS series Art21--Art in the Twenty-First Century scheduled to air this Fall 2009. Art21 features contemporary artists using a variety of media talking about their work and working processes. As part of the Art21 Educators initiative, Mrs. Hatanaka will be discussing the films, visiting museums and galleries, networking with other educators and artists, and developing lesson ideas.

Mrs. Hatanaka will attend a 5-day workshop this summer in New York City and throughout the school year will attend monthly online forums. All participants will return to their classrooms with a unique curriculum to be implemented during the school year presenting contemporary role models for critical thinking and creative problem-solving for their students.

#### **About the Academy of Visual and Performing Arts**

The Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA) at Culver City High School has been inspiring and empowering students to build a compassionate, creative community through innovative and challenging arts education since 1996. AVPA enjoys tremendous support from Sony Pictures Entertainment and other area businesses as well as from the Culver City community. For more information about the Academy, go to <http://avpa.org> or contact Tony Spano at 310-842-4200 x6094 or Kristine Hatanaka at 310-842-4200 x6001.

Photo caption:

Kristine Hatanaka, Participant in Art21 Educators

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