

This past February for the first time ever, our GAEA officers decided to try something new to help out their Secondary art educators. They decided to merge all 3 of the big Secondary events into one and what a huge success it was! Typically the month of February is extra busy for our Secondary students and art educators with ASAS (All State Arts Symposium) one weekend, our Art Throwdown the following weekend and our state NAHS Conference usually wrapping up the month, but this year all 3 events happened on ONE WEEKEND!

Students and teachers from all over the state came together at Columbus State University February 24th and 25th, 2017 to make some ART magic happen and it all started with the Art Throwdown! Imagine 18 schools in one giant auditorium rotating around the room in timed visual art competitions - the energy was palpable! From the ever popular "Face to Face" competition where students sit across from one another and draw what they see while the clock ticks and judges walk around selecting the "winners" based on their rubric, to the Figure Study Competition, to the Graphic Design Challenge, to the Kahoots Trivia area, to the Collaborative Painting competition, to the "3D Surprise Box" sculpture event to the Ceramics fun, to the Character / Anime contest, to the Still Life drawing competition, to the Plein Art Painting, to the Digital Photography competition to the "Write Off Challenge" - there was something for everyone! This year we even had our special education friends attend and compete in an advocacy poster competition for VSA under the direction of Marquette Johnson, and our teachers had the opportunity to work on a timed creative project that was scored by their students! It really was an incredible day for everyone involved!

That evening the event turned into the ASAS reception and then it merged into the NAHS State Conference and started with a delicious catered event that led us into a huge dance party where everyone came together in the Columbus State University's Gallery! The next day students participated in workshops taught by students, teachers and professors and the NAHS Push Pin show was a huge hit. This will become a new tradition within the GAEA as it was a wonderful opportunity for Secondary Art educators to participate in all 3 of our state "biggies" on one full and super fun weekend! The Throwdown truly brought us all together!!