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2013 Indiana "A" School Corporation

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To: All Media Outlets

From: Monroe County Community School Corporation

Date: January 21, 2015

RE: Lotus Education & Arts Foundation Partners with MCCSC Teachers for Math and Origami Workshop

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Lotus Education & Arts Foundation Partners with MCCSC Teachers for Math and Origami Workshop

(Bloomington, IN)— The Lotus Education and Arts Foundation is partnering with the Monroe County Community School Corporation to offer the first-ever Lotus Blossoms Teacher Workshop on Wednesday, February 18th. The workshop, geared toward K-5 grade teachers in MCCSC and other area school districts, is specially designed for teachers to incorporate the use of origami into their classroom. Japanese performer and origami master, Kuniko Yamamoto, will introduce concepts from the Japanese art of simplicity and origami as teachers fold 2-4 basic designs. For Grades K-2 the focus will be observing lines, shapes and identifying geometric figures, with teachers learning to teach simple animal figures. For Grades 3-5, the focus will be triangles, angles and shapes. Teachers will examine the lines of symmetry and analyze interrelationships between figures. Sample lesson plans, curriculum connection ideas and activities will also be shared.

The event comes during the celebration of 20 years of Lotus partnering with MCCSC and other area schools. Loraine Martin, Lotus Education and Arts Foundation Outreach Director, notes

"The foundation of Lotus's outreach efforts began twenty years ago, taking root through a key partnership with MCCSC, as well as other area schools. Input from teachers and administrators was fundamental as we developed the Bazaar, which then blossomed into our full-fledged Lotus Blossoms program. Our programming would not be possible without our partnership with school systems that prioritize student learning through a multicultural lens and an eye towards developing 21st century skills. Our aim is to nourish creativity, critical thinking and respect for different cultural traditions around the world and the people that bring them to life. We believe children deserve the very best and focus our work on bringing world-class artists and programming into schools, as well as our community. Lotus recognizes teachers are working every day to open young minds to the beauty of our world, and the seeds they plant to embrace diversity. To celebrate these partnerships, and to thank teachers who advocate for Lotus programs in their schools, we wanted to offer our first-ever teacher workshop with one of our visiting artists that bridge the arts and math. We look forward to the next 20 years in working with MCCSC, supporting our respective missions, and continuing to make this partnership flourish."

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OUR MISSION: Empowering students to maximize their educational success to become productive, responsible global citizens.



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The Monroe County Community School Corporation welcomes this opportunity as part of its ongoing partnership with the Lotus Education and Arts Foundation to bring music, arts, and diverse cultural opportunities to the students in our District. Tammy Miller, MCCSC Director of Elementary Education describes the impact of this program saying, "We are grateful to the Lotus Education and Arts Foundation for their partnership in providing a workshop for our elementary teachers. The emphasis on integrating the arts into the academic curriculum through "Math and Origami" will provide our students with a meaningful learning opportunity." Teachers participating in the free workshop can earn 1 Professional Growth Point toward continuing education. Interested teachers must register for this free training and can do so by visiting <http://lotusfest.org/lotus-blossoms-main/teacher-origami>.

This workshop comes as part of the spring 2015 programming that leads up to the 20th Annual Lotus Blossoms World Bazaar on March 27-28. The MCCSC has hosted the Lotus Blossoms World Bazaar at Binford Elementary each spring since 2002 and has worked collaboratively with the program since 1996. More information on that event can be found through the MCCSC Community Bulletin Board at www.mccsc.edu/cbb or through the Lotus Foundation website at www.lotusfest.org.

For further information contact: Tim Pritchett, Public Relations and Information Officer (tpritche@mccsc.edu or 330-7700)

More information on Yamamoto's biography is available on her website, www.kunikotheater.com.