

GLOBAL CLASSROOM COLLABORATIONS

The Center for Creative Education (CCE) has merged with **Blue Planet Global Education (BPGE)** to enhance international education through virtual classroom-to-classroom projects. **Dr. Susan Gay Wemette**, who joined CCE 18 months ago as the Director of Arts Integration and Creativity at CCE will also serve as the Executive Director at BPGE and will oversee the partnership's implementation with students at CCE's **The Foundation School** in West Palm Beach and schools in India, Turkey, Morocco, Spain, Vietnam, and more.

For nearly 30 years, CCE has been serving Palm Beach County students with a mission to transform teaching and learning through creativity and the arts. CCE also operates The Foundations School, a K-5 independent school that focuses on improving literacy and breaking the barriers of traditional education through the arts for students from underserved communities. The school uses a sliding fee scale based on household size and income, and no one is turned away for inability to pay.

“We are thrilled to have Dr. Wemette working with us on integrating BPGE into our curriculum and engaging our students not only through



Dr. Susan Gay Wemette



Students at The Foundations School; Culture Box Collaboration with Sister School in India

global literacy, but also by weaving the arts into the experience,” said **Robert Hamon**, President and CEO of CCE. “Her expertise in global collaborations paired with our hands-on, arts-focused curriculum is invaluable in helping us provide more students with the opportunity to learn about different cultures and perspectives.” CCE’s integration with Blue Planet Global Education provides teachers at The Foundations School with the resources and support necessary to bring global literacy into their classrooms. Under Dr. Wemette’s leadership, The Foundations School teachers use international classroom-to-classroom projects to teach core curriculum and global competence. These projects facilitate authentic connections between classrooms worldwide, promoting fundamental understanding and breaking harmful stereotypes.

This spring, Dr. Wemette traveled to the Center for Creative Education’s sister school in India, **Saint Bachanpuri International School**, where she stayed for 10 days to focus on creating BPGE’s international collaborations, presenting different strategies in arts integration to that school’s educators, and looking at opportunities to apply new modes of communication in a way that supports global partnerships.

“Creative thinking is one of the most important 21st century skills,” continued Hamon. “Providing global opportunities like the ones Dr. Wemette is introducing to our students allows them to practice creative thinking strategies. Our students are learning how to generate new ideas, design solutions and solve problems. When skillfully

integrated, academic content comes alive for students through the animation provided by the arts.”

The Center for Creative Education’s creativity-infused curriculum emphasizes arts integration while providing a whole-child focus, fostering a safe and loving environment with intimate class sizes of 15 students or less. Future Kindergarteners looking to attend The Foundations School must be age 5 on or before September 1, 2023, to enroll.

For more information about CCE and to support The Foundations School visit cceflorida.org. To register for *Kindergarten Round-Up*, email **Jerry Crank** at jerryc@cceflorida.org.