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**Baltimore School for the Arts Celebrates Successes of 2014-2015 School Year**

*Accomplishments include 100% college acceptance for the graduating class, the opening of the Center for Collaborative Arts and the world premiere of Imagined Worlds*

**BALTIMORE (May 14, 2015)** – As the school year winds down, Baltimore School for the Arts (BSA) celebrates all of the year's successes including a **100 percent college acceptance rate** for the graduating class and a **Best High School** distinction from *U.S. News & World Report*. These achievements, along with the opening of the Center for Collaborative Arts and the world premiere of the *Imagined Worlds*, cap off the school's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

"We want every BSA student to have great choices as they develop their future," said BSA Director Dr. Chris Ford. "To get there we provide young people with intensive, pre-professional training in the arts combined with rigorous, college preparatory curriculum. Through innovative classes and programs coupled with dedicated and creative faculty, we are able to help continue moving our students and our school into a bright future."

Each year, BSA's **graduation rate is 97 percent or higher** and this year will be no exception. Students received acceptance letters from some of the nation's best universities including Brown University, Eastman School of Music, Johns Hopkins University, The Juilliard School, Manhattan College, Peabody Institute, Swarthmore College and Yale University.

BSA's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary was filled with milestones including:

- The **opening of its new Center for Collaborate Arts and Technology (CCAT)**, which offers 16 workstations equipped with advanced software from all arts-related fields. Funded with partners including the JS Plank and Dana DiCarlo Family, the France-Merrick, and Pearlstone Family Foundations, the CCAT fosters collaborative work and links student experiences with the working world.
- BSA's free after-school program, **TWIGS**, served more than **700 elementary and middle school children**. New this year was a **partnership with the Boys**

- & Girls Clubs of Metro Baltimore** in which 50 low-income children received music and theatre classes.
- 3,000 kids saw **free performances of *The Nutcracker*** at The Modell Lyric and/or attended dance and opera matinees at BSA.
  - The **world premiere of *Imagined Worlds*** which featured 3-D video mapping, original orchestral and vocal music and dance, as well as student-created performances, brought innovative work and nationally recognized young artists to Baltimore.
  - The school's annual **Expressions fundraiser raised half a million dollars** to support BSA's combined academic and arts education.
  - Student accomplishments include a **National Merit Scholarship** winner; four **YoungArts** winners; a selection for Center Stage's 2015 **Young Playwright's Festival**; a winner in the **Words on Wheels** poetry competition, which will display the poem on MTA buses; a sweep of the top three spots at the Laurel Choral Arts Society Vocal Competition and more!
  - BSA alumni continue to distinguish themselves in the arts both locally and nationally. Artist Sara VanDerBeek is featured at the **Baltimore Museum of Art**; actor Lance Williams is starring with Patti LuPone in the new Jerry Zaks play; dancers Jacqueline Green and Keenan English are headliners at Alvin Ailey and Dance Theatre of Harlem.

"It's been another incredible school year where our faculty and students set, meet and even beat their goals," said Ford. "We look forward to continuing the school's successes for many years to come."

#### **ABOUT BALTIMORE SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS**

Baltimore School for the Arts is a nationally recognized public arts high school that provides its students with intensive pre-professional training in the arts in conjunction with a rigorous academic curriculum. BSA graduates go on to the most selective arts and university programs nationwide and achieve prominence in theater, film, music, dance and visual arts. Additionally, BSA's highly acclaimed TWIGS program offers free after-school arts instruction to 700 city elementary and middle school children from schools across Baltimore, as well as other outreach initiatives to thousands more. Founded in 1979, the school is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year as an integral and vibrant part of Baltimore's educational and cultural communities.

*Baltimore School for the Arts, where the arts change kids' lives.*