

March 17, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAMA-LORETTO WORKSHOP TO FOCUS ON AUTISM EDUCATION

Loretto – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto will host an Arts-in-Education workshop with MaryAnn Shaw on Saturday, April 11. The workshop will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

At the workshop, Shaw will share lessons she has used in the classroom working with children and young adults on the autism spectrum. Educators are encouraged to bring their own lesson plans, which Shaw will help revise to make more approachable for students of all abilities.

Shaw has 20 years of experience working with children and young adults on the autism spectrum in both the private and public sectors. She has worked with individuals across the spectrum, from those who are nonverbal with intellectual disabilities to those who are high functioning with IQs in the gifted range. Shaw is currently employed by Saint Francis University, where she designs and teaches Special Education courses. She also is director of the community outreach program Saint Francis CARES, which delivers social skills training to children who display characteristics of Asperger's syndrome or high functioning autism.

Cost for the workshop is \$35 per person, which includes coffee, pastries and lunch. Reservations are required by April 6 and can be made by calling the Museum at (814) 472-3920. The workshop is approved for 6.5 hours of Act 48 credit.

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto is located on the campus of Saint Francis University. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday. The Museum is open to the public free of charge. For more information, call the Museum or visit www.sama-art.org.