



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
23 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0023

PAUL R. LEPAGE  
GOVERNOR

Stephen L. Bowen  
COMMISSIONER

**EXHIBIT: #IX.D.**

**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education

**FROM:** Stephen L. Bowen, Commissioner\*

**DATE:** May 9, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Team Members to Review the Application from the Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts (IDSVA) for Additional Degree-Granting Authority to Confer the Master of Philosophy in the Arts

**BACKGROUND:** 20-A MRSA, § 10704 provides that any educational institution may confer certain degrees if it has been granted initial authority by an Act of the Legislature. The Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts, located in Portland, Maine, is duly authorized under the laws of this State to operate as a degree-granting institution at the doctoral degree level. The Institute was authorized to serve in this capacity through an act of the Maine State Legislature; an act which was subsequently signed by Governor Baldacci on March 1, 2007.

The Institute is Maine's first and, to date, its only virtual institution of higher learning. Following legislative action the Institute has been duly authorized to offer and to confer the Doctor of Visual Arts (DVA) degree. From the outset of the program review process it was known that the Institute would deliver instruction at geographic settings outside Maine. Tuscany, Italy, New York City and various Internationales were specifically identified.

Officials of the Institute have submitted an application seeking authority to confer an additional degree, Master of Philosophy in the Arts. A program approval visit with the applicant's representatives is being scheduled for early-mid-June.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the State Board of Education approve the individuals presented to serve as members of the visiting team to process the request from the Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts (IDSVA) to confer the additional degree of Master of Philosophy in the Arts.

\*Prepared by Harry Osgood,  
Higher Education Specialist

## Proposed Review Committee Membership

The Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts has requested the review and approval of its application for additional degree-granting authority to offer the Master of Philosophy in the Arts. The following, for Board approval, is the proposed list of Maine educators to serve on the visitation team:

Dr. Lynne Coy-Ogan, Chair  
Provost  
Husson University  
Bangor, Maine

Dr. Kathy Yardley  
Associate Provost and Dean of  
Education  
University of Maine at Farmington  
Farmington, Maine

Argy Nestor  
Visual and Performing Arts Consultant  
Maine Department of Education  
Augusta, Maine

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Dr. Dorothy Martin, Observer\*  
Observer  
Maine State Board of Education

Harry W. Osgood\*  
Higher Education Specialist  
Maine Department of Education

\*Non-Voting Participants