ArtsWorks on the road

Murray, Ky--As part of Murray State University’s (MSU) Cultural Awareness Series and College Preparedness, a group of MSU representatives recently traveled to James Madison Middle School in Madisonville, KY to present ArtsWorks to students.

The group was comprised of Dean of MSU’s College of Humanities and Fine Arts (HFA), Dr. Ted Brown and Assistant Dean, Dr. Sonya Baker, as well as eight MSU faculty members. The opening session advocated the importance of a college education, with a focus on pursuing a degree in the arts.

The approximately 165 eighth grade students watched a video highlighting HFA students and faculty at MSU, and then proceeded to various theatre, music, art and creative writing workshops.

In the workshops: Theatre professors Angi Hanan and Jonathon Awori played improvisation games with the students; Poets Carrie Jerrell and Constance Alexander helped students create poetry through the use of art works from the “Picturing America” collection, and also developed poetry inspired by discussions of metaphors; Art professors Sarah Gutwirth and Jeanne Beaver explored elements of art, including shapes and lines; John Hill shared his experiences as a percussionist and performed on the drum
set; and Laynie Mitchell worked with the students on creating rhythmic patterns on
Boomwhackers, pitched plastic tubes, and rhythm sticks.

The ArtsWorks presentation is sponsored in part by MSU’s Office of Regional
Stewardship and Outreach and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, and will be
offered to students in Graves County in May 2010.