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## **Any Given Child bridges STEM and the arts to develop Northeast Florida young talent**

**WHAT:** Any Given Child Jacksonville, an initiative of The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, will host an interactive event, A+ STEM, to showcase the correlation between STEM and an arts-rich education and how a focus on this education for children will develop economic health and a future workforce in Northeast Florida. The event, the first in a series of specialized community connectors, will feature hors d'oeuvres, cocktails and interactive STEM exhibits.

**WHO:** Duval County Superintendent Nikolai Vitti; cutting-edge STEM industry professionals; government, community and business leaders; and entrepreneurs will be in attendance.

**WHERE:** Haskell, 111 Riverside Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32202

**WHEN:** Tuesday, October 18, 2016 | 5-7 p.m.

**WHY:** The purpose of A+ STEM is to gather community members, elected officials, business leaders and students to establish standards to ensure civic innovation is grown locally to foster long-term economic growth for Northeast Florida.

**MEDIA:** Photography and on-camera interviews are available at the event. Media credentials can be coordinated through Allison Galloway, executive director of Any Given Child, at 904.281.5599 ext. 22.

**MORE INFO:** The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts launched Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child in 2009. This national initiative brings communities together to implement comprehensive, sustainable arts education agendas so all K-8 children have equitable access to learning in the arts. In 2013, Jacksonville was selected as the 14th Any Given Child community alongside cities such as Austin, Sacramento, and Portland, and in 2014 the Cathedral Arts Project was selected as the host organization for the initiative.

For the past three years, Jacksonville has rallied around a new vision for quality public education. This vision places the arts at the center of a renewed commitment to the whole child.

Any Given Child Jacksonville is uniting diverse stakeholders, including DCPS personnel and students, arts organizations and artists, and business and community leaders. We have worked ceaselessly to raise awareness and build capacity to ensure every K-8 student in Duval County receives access to a high-quality arts education.