The 33rd annual Tennessee Arts Academy gave us some of the best and brightest talent we’ve ever had! Along with our incredible faculty, we welcomed amazing musers and performers, proving how truly inspirational the arts can be.

Anton Armstrong reminded us about the power that arts teachers have to create positive change for students—and even society itself. Peter H. Reynolds explored how to delve deeply into the creative process, and also how to nurture and grow our own unique creativity. Jeff Calhoun showed us the exuberant, enthusiastic energy of creativity unleashed, while Alton Fitzgerald White brought an equal dose of humor, witticism, poise, passion, elegance and grace to his incomparable presentation. Below are some valuable words of wisdom shared throughout the week. Take these with you throughout your 2019-2020 school year as you open minds and shape hearts.

“Get started. Keep going. Find your own voice. Share your voice with others, and never stop learning. You will always learn. You will never be an expert. You’re an expert-in-progress right now. The world’s going to keep changing, and we need you to keep making and creating and sharing. . . . I am so grateful to all of you for everything you’re doing. Keep going. Never stop!”

-Peter Reynolds

“In order for us to open our students’ minds and shape their hearts, it’s our responsibility to have open minds and hearts that can shaped.”

-Jeff Calhoun
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