

LOCAL NEWS

Riverside conference explores music, the brain and learning

The two-day Making Music in Education Conference included demonstrations and performances



Students prepare to perform at the Making Music in Education Conference on Friday,

pm

A conference last week in Riverside explored ways teachers can blend music into their lessons.

The two-day [Making Music in Education Conference](#) also saw attendees create music of their own and listen to speeches examining research on music and the classroom.

[The Riverside Arts Academy](#) organized the event, joining with the city of Riverside, UC Riverside's honors program, California Baptist University, La Sierra University, Cal State San Bernardino and the Alvord and Riverside unified school districts.

Hosted at the Cesar Chavez Community Center and UCR, the event featured a lecture for policy makers, community leaders and the public on Thursday, Oct. 17, and a lecture and music workshop that included demonstrations the next day.

This conference focused on use of music in the classroom and drew upon research about music and the brain by Nina Kraus, a professor at Northwestern University who was keynote speaker at the event. She discussed how low-income children are at a disadvantage, but with a regular [music program such as that offered by the academy](#) and local schools, they can rewire the brain and change the trajectory of their learning, a news release states.

“This event empowered multi-disciplinary teachers without a music background or classroom resources on how to incorporate music into their classrooms,” Academy President Collette Lee wrote in an email.

Highlights, Lee wrote, included a performance by 28 students from Bryant, Highgrove, Beatty and Longfellow elementary schools in an academy concert band conducted by Music Director Gene Moon. Also, at one point, more than 190 teachers and administrators made music with inexpensive objects such as recorders, buckets and drumsticks, she wrote.