How did the collaboration between the J.T. & Margaret Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts and the STAR program begin?

Our collaboration with Dr. Corwin and with Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center began in 2018 actually think it was 2017 with a National Endowment for the Arts grant to Texas Tech University to support research in aphasia, and the ways in which the arts could address communication needs of persons with aphasia, we went forward with a research team that developed an application for deployment on iPads that would enable persons with Aphasia to communicate in a visual nonverbal manner with clinicians, that program remains under development. As an outgrowth of that Dr. Corwin and I discussed a year ago the possibility of hosting her Summer Arts Camp her Stroke Aphasia Recovery Summer Arts Camp, here at Texas Tech Under the auspices of the college.

Why did the J.T. & Margaret Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts want to host the Summer Arts Camp?

Our collaboration with the STAR programs Summer Arts camp this year is a first for the Talkington College and it represents a large step forward in the way the arts are perceived as being clinically useful tools in treating and approaching the needs of persons with aphasia.

Why is this collaboration important?

Our collaboration with the STAR program and on this collaborative venture for the Talkington College of Visual and Performing Arts has been very significant. This represents a large scale attempt by our two colleges, Texas Tech University and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center to find interdisciplinary ways of combining the arts with pressing and contemporary healthcare needs.

Is this Summer Arts Camp part of any current research?

So our collaboration with STAR was born out of a research project, that research project of course, is no longer connected to what we’re doing. However, one of the aspects of our relationship with this program and this Summer Arts Camp is the expectation that in the future, we will be able to determine the efficacy of the arts on treating certain conditions and challenges that persons with Aphasia experience as well as improving their quality of life. Our college Texas Tech University and Research one universities across the state are highly invested in interdisciplinary research ventures that bring together seemingly disparate disciplinary groups. In this instance, it's the arts and speech pathology.

Why is research like this important?

This collaboration between our two institutions represents the frontier of Interdisciplinary Arts and Health Research, the National Endowment for the Arts, the federal agency that supports arts and artists across the country is highly invested and his invested in Texas Tech University, in developing cross collaborations that seek to leverage the power of the visual arts, the performing arts, in treating and addressing not only clinical outcomes for individuals, but also what you see here, which are quality of life and cognition, goals and outcomes.