

Friis, John

From: Diego Barnes [iegoday@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2009 1:19 PM
To: Friis, John
Subject: HB6666, Section 5

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to strongly advocate for Section 5 of House Bill HB6666, which will allow for adjunct faculty certificates to be issued to the highly-trained professional artists, who serve as ECA's part-time faculty, to continue their 35-year record of preparing Connecticut's high school students for our competitive global economy. If they are required to become certified for 12-hour per week part-time positions, they will not be able to do so and the school will close. This will be a terrible loss to Connecticut's high school students in 19 school districts.

My name is Diego Barnes. I am a sophomore in the Theater Department at ACES-ECA. It has come to my attention that with the passing of this bill, I would be robbed of half of my education. With ECA closed, I would no longer be able to study theater intensively. ECA is giving me the building blocks to jump start a whole career for myself. The teachers there are the reason. They have real life experience in the theatrical field. So much so that their lessons of Stanislavsky, Uta Hagen, and Michael Chekov Techniques are filled with real life examples of for instance when Ingrid Shaeffer (the Department head) actually studied under Uta Hagen. Now if a Theater Conservatory Education isn't enough to teach theater, then I don't know what is.

This is true for all of the teachers at ECA. They have Real Life training... something that one can only wish they could get from a diploma. These are professionals who teach what they do in real life. My English teacher isn't a novelist, and my Biology teacher isn't a Bio-Chemist, but at ECA, what people teach, IS what they are.

I thank you for your time and care toward a matter as important as this.

Thank you,

Diego Barnes