

**Friis, John**

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**From:** jeffreypk4@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2009 12:03 AM  
**To:** Friis, John  
**Subject:** HB6666, Section 5

To whom it may concern,

I am a graduate of Aces: ECA. I attend ECA for three years and recently graduated in 2008. ECA has given me so much. The most important thing that Eca has given me is Life. When I came to ECA I had given up on myself. I just saw myself as worthless. I assumed that I would always be nothing. Then the teachers at ECA helped me discover that I'm worth the world. I never was into the arts but, when they introduced me to dance it was like I found something I could love. My teacher Susan Matheke took me under her wing and showed me what I could be. She gave me independence and strength but, the most important thing she gave me is self pride. When she walks in a room she makes us all feel at home. She gives us all the encouragement we need. She showed me its okay to look in the mirror and say " I'am beatiful inside and out no matter what people say." People think that the arts are just something that poeple do but, it is not at all its who we are. I have continued to grow as a dancer since Eca because of Susan. I applied to colleges and a got into wonderful schools. In the end I choose Nutmeg Conservatory and even though I go to a conservatory I also take online classes at Axia College and have a part time job. If it was not for ECA I would probably be stuck a Burger King for the rest of my life because I would have never thought I was capable of anything else. So as a former student and child of ECA I'm asking you to give the community of New Haven a chance to indulge in self pride.

Yours Truly,

Jeffrey Senior

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