

Friis, John

From: kaila collins [kailaxc@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2009 11:00 PM
To: Friis, John
Subject: HB6666, Section 5

To Whom it May Concern,

As a student of ACES ECA, I have been directly affected by the presented issue concerning our faculty undergoing changes. I have been a student at ECA for four years, and will be graduating in June. As a member of the music department, my classes have consisted of music theory, composition, and ensemble playing. My theory teachers, Oliver Homann, Doug Fisk, James Martin, and Roy Wiseman, have approached teaching at ECA in a way that is effective and fun. My knowledge of music has grown tremendously, and I am, no doubt, getting a more in depth and focused education than I would be in a two year program at my public school. We take tests, have assessments, have homework, and do basically everything a normal class would do. The teachers I have had at ECA are the best teachers I've experienced. My composition teacher, Tawnie Olson, is a Yale Graduate. She finished top in her class, and has studied with many world renowned composers. She has helped me struggle through compositions, and has fought for opportunities to make our education better. We recently received a grant to hire the Haven String Quartet to play our compositions. If it weren't for ECA, I wouldn't have the opportunity to have a professional string quartet play my music. We just received a grant for Mac computers next year, an essential for music writing. My ensemble teachers, Marvin Warshaw and Roy Wiseman, have helped me grow as a musician. They approach the music with such detail and precision. I truly feel that they are the best ensemble coaches I've ever had.

I didn't even mention the elective teachers I've had. I've taken everything from Circus Arts with Jake Weinstein to Technical Design with Seth Harris, and have learned so much about different areas in the arts. These teachers have gone beyond the school year, and include their students even after they graduate. I received a phone call over the summer from Jake, asking me to come to New Haven and stilt in a festival with him, even after he wasn't teaching at ECA anymore.

The teachers at ECA are some of the most loving, creative, and inspiring people I've ever met. If it's a college certificate that you're looking for, so be it. But that means you can't see what fabulous people they really are. I know that I wouldn't have gotten into numerous colleges were in not for the support of ECA. I also am planning on majoring in Music Education, and I would love to come teach at a school similar to ECA. My teachers have inspired me to accomplish anything.

Please take this and the other letters you receive into consideration. We weren't required to write this. Any letter you get was written out of concern and love for our devoted faculty at ECA.

Thank you for your time,
Kaila Collins (Class of '09)