

Friis, John

From: nicole turner [nicoleturner@mac.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2009 4:11 PM
To: Friis, John
Subject: Sec.5 of House Bill H6666

Dear Representative Fleischmann, Senator Gaffey, and members of the Education Committee,

I am writing to strongly advocate for Sec.5 of House Bill H6666, 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 10-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.

Having professional artists as teachers helped me excel in the theatre arts and, though I did not continue on as a professional actor, I continually use the creativity, coping mechanisms and the day to day skills learned in my four years there to relate to the world and people around me. The school's lessons are far deeper than pedagogy and have helped me excel in more ways than academic. In specific, as a freshman at Yale, I performed in a play in my 1st semester, that the head of the theatre department saw. He then saw me in several subsequent projects. When it came time for me to audition for the department, I was incredibly sick, and had lost my voice...he stopped me during my attempt to try out, and let me know that having seen my work, I didn't need to finish. I truly believe without the having had professionals as teachers, I might not have even showed up to that audition. Ingrid, Peter & Linda taught me the value of commitment to my craft. Their lack of certification made no difference whatever, and allowed them to give more freely of their expertise.

Sincerely
Nicole Turner
ECA Class of 1993