Friis, John

From: Siri Scott [siri.scott@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2009 11:42 PM
To: Friis, John
Subject: Support for HB6666 Section 5 = Support for Part-Time Teachers at ECA

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.

ECA is an invaluable life-altering radically positive resource to an otherwise oft-neglected segement of our youth. I attended ECA during my senior year ('94-'95) for creative writing, prior to my attending Smith College. Without a doubt, the education I received at ECA under a talented writing staff far surpassed most of what I experienced at Smith College in terms of creative writing classes. I still look back upon my time at ECA as the pinacle of my education anywhere, anytime. My teachers there opened up a whole new world of empowerment and inspiration for me--teaching me and my peers as though we were equal to them and worthy of full academic respect. Learning from real writers and artists is at the core of what makes ECA so unique and so invaluable. If the artists and writers and musicians who are currently employed there are forced to leave because of teacher certification issues, and ECA closes, it will be an utter tragedy for the talented and creative youth of Connecticut. I can't imagine what my life would've been like withouth ECA. It is largely responsible for some of my closest friendships and also my having been accepted to such a prestigious college; in fact, my writing porfolio from ECA and the recommendations I received from my teachers/mentors were responsible for the impressive financial scholarship I received from Smith College. I continue to reap the benefits of that year of my life spent at ECA in my creative life, and I truly hope that you will take action to save ECA so that subsequent generations may also benefit from it. I know that my friends who also attended ECA feel a similar and equally passionate gratitude for the education they received there. I realize it is a small program, that might seem to a distant observer as being unimportant and superfluous in the grander scheme, but please know that its positive effects are enormous and lasting for every student lucky enough to have attended.

Best Regards,

Siri Scott
Smith College '01

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http://threedogparty.com