

# The University School

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Nicholas G. Macol  
President

Mary Hamilton, MSAT, ATR-BC, LPC  
President, Connecticut Art Therapy Association  
19 Raymond Heights  
Darien, CT. 06820

Dear Ms. Hamilton,

I am writing on behalf of the administration of The University School (TUS) in Bridgeport to endorse your association's legislative effort to obtain professional licensure for art therapists by the Healthcare Quality and Safety Branch of the Connecticut Department of Public Health.

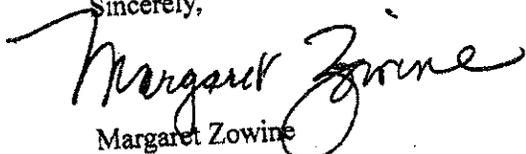
Art therapy has been an integral part of our alternative; special needs high school curriculum since 1989.

Our students have a variety of special education identifications. Many of them have histories in the juvenile justice system. The art therapy program is dedicated to helping these at-risk students reach their maximum cognitive and emotional potential through the vehicle of creative expression. The program has grown including the supervision of master's level art therapy students.

TUS values the benefits of small classroom instruction to best address the individual needs of each high school student. Approximately 40 of these at-risk students benefit from art therapy services each year. The art therapist helps students to identify and reconcile emotional conflicts using art processes as the modality for personal expression, communication, evaluation and treatment. Art therapy uses the creative process to help students develop insights, resolve social and emotional conflicts and make positive behavioral changes. The art therapist is an integral part of the TUS team, working directly with teachers, administrators and other mental health professionals.

The administration of TUS strongly endorses the effort of the Connecticut Art Therapy Association to gain professional recognition and licensure of art therapists to assure that all of our students will continue to have access to art therapy services by highly trained and qualified art therapy professionals.

Sincerely,

  
Margaret Zowine  
Administrator