

# Yale College

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Mary Pelucci Hamilton  
President, Connecticut Art Therapy Association

I am writing in support of the Connecticut Art Therapy Association's efforts to get the Connecticut Department of Consumer Affairs to license professional clinical art therapists in the State of Connecticut. Although I am not a health professional, I am a Vietnam veteran and have spoken with many veterans who have been helped immensely through art therapy interventions. In addition, I work with college students and am very aware of the potential that art therapy possesses for helping young people confront and overcome their social and maturational issues.

I have observed the ways in which Professor Evie Lindemann, who teaches in the Art Therapy Masters program at Albertus Magnus College, has worked with veteran populations at VA Hospitals in West Haven and in Newington. Art therapy interventions can be especially effective for helping veterans heal from the effects of PTSD connected with their military service. Through the guided art experiences and the processing of these experiences, art therapists provide the veterans with the tools with which they can handle the recurrence of the PTSD symptoms. Art therapists are trained to actively listen to the concerns and needs of all clients, including veterans, as the clients describe the personal meaning connected to their directed art experience.

I have attended a number of community art therapy workshops that the Art Therapy faculty at Albertus Magnus has run in connection with the New Haven Arts and Ideas Festival and have seen and experienced the powerful ways that art therapy techniques can be used in group clinical settings. As the Dean of Silliman College and as an instructor in the Religious Studies Department at Yale, I have referred Yale students who are interested in combining art with psychology to the Albertus Magnus graduate program.

Connecticut is lucky to have one of the premier art therapy graduate programs at Albertus Magnus College. I strongly recommend that the Connecticut Department of Consumer Affairs provide a program of professional licensure for art therapists in Connecticut as is done in other states such as Maryland, Mississippi, Kentucky, New Mexico and others. A system of professional licensing in Connecticut will allow properly trained clinical art therapists to provide healing services for more clients across the spectrum of health care.

Sincerely,

Hugh M. Flick, Jr.  
J. Jerry Inskeep Dean  
Silliman College  
Yale University