

Joint Finance Committee Hearings, Public Education



Delaware Arts Alliance

February 18th, 2015

Education and the arts; why?



“Creativity is just connecting things. When you ask creative people how they did something, they feel a little guilty because they didn’t really do it, they just saw something”. Steve Jobs

Education and the arts; why?

“I believe education cannot and should not be boiled down just to reading and math. I believe the arts and history, foreign languages, financial literacy, physical education, and after school enrichment are as important as advanced math and science classes. Those are essentials, not luxuries”.

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan



Education; critical to prepare young people for actual available jobs...



Gov. Markell set to spend on expanding career pathways programs

James Dawson, Delaware Public Media, Feb. 12th, 2015

Education; critical to prepare young people for actual available jobs...

“If we continue to behave as if college itself is the destination, not college for a purpose, we’re going to continue to see rather alarming both non-completion rates and, ultimately, underemployment rates”.

Harvard professor and co-leader of the Pathways to Prosperity Network Bob Schwartz



The fundamental question is if
Delaware is educating the
workforce of the future...



Key work skills and capabilities needed in the next few years:

- sense making
- social intelligence
- novel & adaptive thinking
- cross-cultural competencies,
- computational thinking,
- new media literacy,
- transdisciplinarity,
- design mindset,
- cognitive load management
- virtual collaboration

Institute for the Future (spin-off from the RAND Corporation)



The Partnership for 21st Century Skills and the Arts

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills serves as a catalyst to position 21st century readiness at the center of US K12 education by building collaborative partnerships among education, business, community and government leaders.

http://www.p21.org/storage/documents/P21_arts_map_final.pdf



The 21st Century map for the Arts includes the following skills:

Critical Thinking & Problem Solving;
Communication; Collaboration; **Creativity**;
Innovation; Information Literacy; Media
Literacy; Information; Communication &
Technology Literacy; Flexibility & Adaptability;
Initiative & Self-direction; **Social & Cross-**
cultural Skills; Productivity & Accountability;
Leadership & Responsibility.

The next slide shares some examples of rigorous learning in the arts in Delaware's schools...



These are examples of rigorous learning in the arts in Delaware's schools:

<p><u>Innovation</u></p>	<p>Mt. Pleasant High School Brandywine School District Wilmington, DE</p> <p>Audio Engineering</p>	<p>Using the International Baccalaureate Theory of Knowledge framework, Career and Technical Education (CTE) and music education certified teacher, Tom Dean, facilitates student investigation of audio engineering. In addition to providing students with pathways into the fields of sound and media, Mr. Dean and the school provide practical opportunities for application through the Delaware First Media affiliate radio station, WMPH.</p>
<p><u>Social and Cross-cultural Skills</u></p>	<p>Providence Creek Academy Charter School Clayton, DE</p> <p>World Percussion Ensembles</p>	<p>Students at Providence Creek Academy Charter School, and their instructor Kelly Hanson, utilize World Drums and tonal percussion instruments to enhance their understanding of traditional music from all over the world. The percussion ensemble, comprised of a wide range of students of different ages, ethnicities and experience serves as a vehicle for social and academic growth. The ensemble places strong emphasis on improvisation on both pitched and non-pitched percussion instruments, as well as having all students collaborate on the final form of their compositions.</p>
<p><u>Creativity</u></p>	<p>Sussex Central High School Indian River School District Millsboro, DE</p> <p>Engineering Design</p>	<p>Visual Art students at Sussex Central learn to grasp creative thinking through their instructor, Judith Loeber. By modelling creativity and innovation through, Adobe platform, the Engineering Design Model, and technology paired with more traditional media, Ms. Loeber and her students investigate obscure genre and learn to create in unusual ways. Students from Sussex Central have gone on to careers in video game development, car design, sound design, medical animation, graphic design and digital media and work for companies such as Chrysler.</p>

It is clear that to educate the workforce of tomorrow, Delaware requires creativity and innovation embedded in key work skills needed.

Some schools in DE have started...



Arts education is therefore more than a luxury and is a necessity to educate the workforce Delaware needs to stay competitive.



Can we work together to include the arts in students' curriculum to make them competitive in increasing globalized markets?

