



### Arts Facts...Advantages of Arts Learning Continues over Time

Low-income students who are highly engaged in the arts are more than twice as likely as their peers with low arts involvement to have earned a Bachelor's degree.

## Increased Arts Involvement Among Disadvantaged Students Leads to: Finding a Better Job, Earning a College Degree, and Volunteering



In the late 1990s, James Catterall analyzed data from the National Educational Longitudinal Survey, a study of 25,000 secondary school students, over four years. He found significant connections between high involvements in arts learning and general academic success.

In 2009, Catterall analyzed 10 additional years of data for the exact same cohort of students, now age 26. The results strongly connect arts learning with continued success in academics and in life.

- The study found significant advantages for “arts-engaged low socio-economic status students” in college going, types of employment, as well as strong advantages in volunteerism and voting.
- Gainful employment for this group of students included better jobs with higher pay, more responsibility, more promotion opportunity, and more employee satisfaction.
- Dr. Catterall concludes that the benefits to arts-engaged disadvantaged students are measurable and unparalleled. He states: “In the annals of education research, it is hard to find average performance or outcome statistics reported for low-SES students that exceed such measures for the entire population.”

Source: Catterall, James S. (2009). *Doing Well and Doing Good by Doing Art: The Effects of Education in the Visual and Performing Arts on the Achievements and Values of Young Adults*. Los Angeles/London: Imagination Group/I-Group Books.