



PRESS RELEASE

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WESTMINSTER COLLEGE & ARTS-KIDS COLLABORATE

MBA Students Strengthen Youth Organization's Evaluation Methodologies

PARK CITY, UTAH — Throughout the month of June, three graduate students from Westminster College's Masters in Business Administration program will undertake a project to assess and strengthen Arts-Kids methods in outcomes measurement. Arts-Kids has collected program effectiveness data for 10 years from parents, teachers, school counselors, artists, facilitators and students. Over the past decade, an average of 84% of respondents has indicated positive improvements in the following areas:

- Improvement in attitude towards school
- Improved behavior
- Better ability of the student to communicate
- Feeling of community and
- Overall satisfaction with the Arts-Teens experience.

“Our measurement systems are an important part of our after-school youth development program,” said Executive Director Pat Drewry Sanger. “There is always room for improvement and the MBA graduate students are equipped to help us do that.”

“Our goal is to objectively analyze the data and accurately present results with non-biased interpretations,” said Matthew Larson, MBA candidate. “We intend to provide value-added input for Arts-Kids to incorporate into their measurement practices.”

About Arts-Kids

Arts-Kids, Inc. was founded in 1999 by Pat Drewry Sanger, an Advanced Practice Psychiatric-Mental Health Registered Nurse and Child/Adolescent Specialist. The inspiration for the program came from her early work in Norfolk, Virginia, where she noticed that children growing up in tough inner city environments began to become hardened and emotionally shut down by age nine or ten. Ms. Sanger establish Arts-Kids, an after school program which combined the

expressive arts and group techniques to teach life skills to youth, to address those issues. By 2003, Arts-Kids and Arts-Teens groups had expanded to all ten Summit County elementary and middle schools.

In 2008, Arts-Kids expanded its model to the Uintah and Ouray Northern Ute Reservations in eastern Utah. In 2010, Arts-Kids developed a formal training program to teach civic organizations, school districts, additional Native tribes and other audiences how to implement the program for youth in their own communities. The Wasatch School District will conduct a pilot program at two of their elementary schools next fall.

About the Westminster students:

Matthew Larson, MBA candidate, is a Technical Supervisor in Specialized Technologies and Manufacturing at ARUP Laboratories. He has work process improvement experience and workforce training expertise. He holds a BS degree from the University of Wyoming.

Saray E. Lopez holds a BA in Marketing from Utah State University. She is currently Operations Director for the Division of New Learning at Westminster College. In her career at Westminster, she has developed measurements and metrics to evaluate students there.

Jason Woolsey holds a BS in clinical psychology from Westminster, and he has advanced skills in Excel with proficiency in statistics, formulas and graphs. He is currently the Team Lead at the JC Penney Shared Services Center in Salt Lake City.

ATTENTION MEDIA: Interviews and images available upon request. For more information contact Arts-Kids at 435.615.7878 or go to www.arts-kids.org.

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