Candidacy Specialized Bibliography

The University of South Carolina String Project: A Portrait of Good Work

APA Format

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A dramatic string teacher shortage in the United States has been documented since 1999 (Byo & Cassidy, 2005). In response, the American String Teachers Association (ASTA) and the National String Project Consortium (NSPC) have established a plan to promote and support more effective string teacher training programs throughout the country, known as String Projects. These String Projects are being modeled after the University of South Carolina (USC) String Project, a lauded teacher-training program for undergraduate string education majors employing a “service-learning” model. As a university-community partnership the USC String Project offers pre-service teachers practical supervised training during their college years and underprivileged students in the Columbia, South Carolina community the opportunity to learn stringed instruments at a nominal cost. Although the NSPC String Projects are receiving generous financial support and recognition within the field of string teacher education, the scholarly literature regarding String Project sites is at a minimum. Since the University of South Carolina String Project is being used as the primary model for multiple other String Project community music sites, it is imperative that this particular program be examined academically so that there is ample documentation and verification of the program practices they are trying to replicate throughout the United States. A comprehensive illustrative narrative of the USC String Project would provide a necessary vantage point for ASTA, the NSPC, future generation String Projects, and the broader field of string teacher education.


