

College Bound-Career Bound

Creating an environment to support your students who aspire for a life in the arts

Dr. Jonathan Latta, Associate Professor of Practice at University of the Pacific

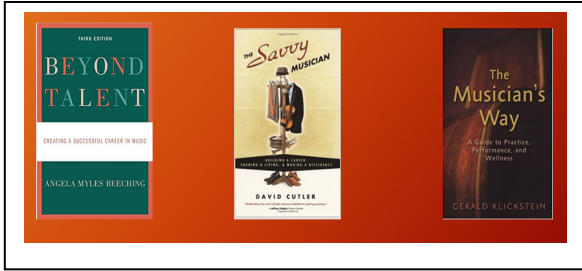
- ***We should continually ask ourselves:***
 - Who are our students as people?
 - Who are our students as artists?
 - What challenges and barriers do our students face each day?
 - What potential can we unlock in our students through our teaching?

How do we see our students as artists?

- The participant who becomes the performer
- The burgeoning composer
- The drum major that has her sights on music education
- The rocker and the jazzer
- The music lover with a passion for health sciences
- The sound engineer that is savvy in technology
- The choir's social media marketing specialist
- In seeing the above students (and countless more), we can ask ourselves: how have I embraced these various passions and skills and provided opportunities to my students?

Embracing the student entrepreneur

- Valuable skills learned in support of your area could include:
 - Ensemble logistics
 - Library management
 - Social media marketing
 - Video/audio recording of rehearsals and concerts
 - Collaborative pianist/artist
- Experiences students have outside our ensembles:
 - Running their own band
 - Creating and recording their own music
 - Performing in local, civic, and/or church ensembles
 - Coaching younger musicians



Tool we can share for success:

- Time management
- Communication
- Effective uses of technology
- Appropriate social media behavior
- An open mind, prepared to embrace diversity
- Self-advocacy
- Promote a growth mindset

Questions for reflection

- *What are some of your efforts to diversify your musical experience and how have you created a more inclusive environment?*
- *What have you done to remove barriers for our students in their pursuit of exploring the arts?*
- *What are some of the activities you do to promote college search and college readiness?*
- *How do you actively encourage and help students explore opportunities to broaden their experience around the arts?*
- *In what ways do you encourage the young entrepreneur?*
- *What have been some elements explored in the academic experience that you have seen set students up for success in the college admissions process?*

Helping our students stand out in the Admissions process

- When completing the written statement, help students find compelling, passionate, and *specific* ways to communicate their interest in the school and the arts (*what* is being said, and *how* it is being said is important)
- Have them connect with the potential applied teacher often and in professional ways
- Encourage students to attend events at the schools for which they are interested
- Help the students provide informative and personalized letters of recommendation
- Assist students in assessing and communicating their extracurricular activities
- For students interested in the arts, help provide audition preparation planning as well as development of professional materials, to include a portfolio

Feel free to connect with me further with questions at jlatta@pacific.edu