

Due Date: April 30 (2015 and 2016)

Senior Club Name and State: _____

Name of person submitting report _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Building the 21st Century workforce . . . Reports show creativity is among the top 5 applied skills sought by business leaders – with 72 percent saying creativity is of high importance when hiring. The biggest creativity indicator? A college arts degree. Their *Ready to Innovate* report concludes, “...the arts – music, creative writing, drawing, dance provide skills sought by employers of the 3rd millennium.” Source: *AFTA 10 Reasons to Support the Arts*, March 2015.

Arts and academic success Students with an education rich in the arts have higher GPAs and standardized test scores, lower drop - out rates, and even better attitudes about community service – benefits reaped by students regardless of socioeconomic status. Students with four years of arts or music in high school average 100 points better on their SAT scores than students with one- half year or less. Source: *AFTA 10 Reasons to Support the Arts* Updated March 2015.

Our club members realize the importance arts education in our schools. ___YES ___NO

Arts and the business leaders. Americans for the Arts reports that 85 percent of surveyed business executives indicated that they are currently having difficulty recruiting individuals who possess creative ability. The demand for creative people will increase as U.S. firms pursue innovation. **Our club understands the importance arts education plays in developing future employment opportunities for our students. ___YES ___NO**

Arts and the economy. As of January 2015, the Creative Industries employed a total of 2.9 million people and involved 702,771 businesses. Economic activity of the non-profit arts sector generated \$22.3 billion in tax revenue. Source: AFTA website **Our club is aware that the arts not only enhance our lives and communities, but also are an important economic engine in our culture. ___YES ___NO**

Arts and healthcare. Nearly one-half of the nation’s healthcare institutions provide arts programming for patients, families, and even staff. 78 percent deliver these programs because of their healing benefits to patients – shorter hospital stays, better pain management, and less medication. Source: *AFTA 10 Reasons to Support the Arts*, March 2015.

Our club understands that the arts are playing a bigger role in our healthcare system and having a positive impact. ___YES ___NO

Arts and our stories. **Our club understands that our success stories we experience and share is the best way to advocate for the arts. ___YES ___NO**

Club Action items. **Our club will include arts advocacy on our meeting agendas and will do our best to monitor arts issues by getting involved with regional arts councils, school boards, city councils, and state and national legislation. Our members are aware of these great websites and monitor: www.americansforthearts.org and www.artsusa.org/get_involved/advocate.asp. ___YES ___NO**

Individual Action items. **We will continue to be on boards of a community band, orchestra, chorus, opera, community theatre, or jazz arts group. We will promote the arts by encouraging our students, friends and families to attend local concerts, theater events, visit museums and galleries, and to support local school music and arts education programs. ___YES ___NO**

Enthusiasm! **Our club is excited about becoming more involved in arts advocacy! ___YES ___NO**

I’m looking forward to hearing from you! Send a copy of this form to your state chairman or if no active state chairman, send directly to the National Chairman: **Lee Ann Cummings, 146 W Pinebrook Dr., Brandon, MS 39047.**

Please include your stories, comments, newspaper articles or clippings. Please feel free to contact me with questions or comments at (601) 992-9330 or via e-mail at cummings-lee28@att.net. **Send to PA Chairman Brenda Miller, 66 Denny Lane, Dushore PA 18614, 570-928-7665, kmbm18614@gmail.com.**