

## Newsletter No.9: January, 2016

### National Research Study for EI Sistema-inspired Music Programs



#### Key Topics:

- 2016 Spring Calendar
- Data Report
- Heads Up
- A Word from the Fellows

*Photo courtesy of Kalamazoo Kids In Tune*

#### 2016 Spring Calendar:

##### January-February

- Final Entry and First Analysis of Fall Data
- Call or Visit from Research Team
- Preparation for Spring Data Collection

##### March

- Spring Collection Calendar Due (by March 1)
- Final Preparation for Spring Data Collection

##### April

- Spring Data Collection

##### May

- Spring Data Collection

##### June

- Spring Data Sent or Scanned

#### Data Report

The fall data is in and our team has scanned and organized. Data entry will continue until mid February at which point we will be able to continue the analysis in earnest.

As of this writing, completed fall semester measures have been received from all core sites, as well as from one collaborating site. Across the core sites, this comprises measures from 280 program

students and 225 comparison- or control-group students. The size of the sample should provide adequate statistical power to examine whether there are differences in the socio-emotional development of students enrolled in *El Sistema*-inspired programs and their peers.

As well, we have a fine baseline sample of performance measures to use for assessing musical growth – when we look at the spring round of data.

Thank you, and again, congratulations to you and your staff.

After the Spring data is in, we will schedule meetings to go over findings and how best to share and report these findings to your constituents. Research is a slow, careful and patient process – but once we have the year’s full data set, we are truly able to look at change and growth over time.

If you have not yet completed your W-9 in order to receive your fall stipend, please be in touch with Judy immediately to take care of this

### **Heads Up**

Each site will be receiving a call or visit from one of the Research Team members in the next few weeks. We’ll be recommending specific strategies, offering tips and guidance, and extending our support for the Spring round of data collection, based on what we learned this fall.

REMEMBER: In the Spring, you’ll also be collecting:

- Academic grades for each student in the study (program and comparison)
- Surveys from program staff
- Surveys from classroom teachers

We have worked with many of you to make sure the logistics are in place to collect these items. As we have suggested in the past Newsletters, if you need our further support in this area, please be in touch with us right away. Collecting grades and working with classroom teachers takes extra planning and, often, separate arrangements with schools and districts.

### **A Word from the Fellows**

Jennifer Johnson and Angelica Cortez, our Research Fellows, visited many of your sites for the fall performance measures. They write, “During the fall semester, we had the opportunity to visit core sites as they implemented the performance assessment. This was a wonderful time to not only assist with the assessment, but also to see first hand the amazing work that many *El Sistema*-inspired programs are doing. The teams of each program were very welcoming to us, showed us the programs and facilities, and were very eager to learn more about how to effectively implement the assessments. Students, though shy at first, were soon excited by the opportunity to observe their growth over the year, and were also able to identify specific measures or techniques that needed more work. Finally, after the assessments were completed, we were able to brainstorm with the teachers and staff about things that went well and things that could be improved for the spring assessment. These conversations and collaborations help to make this study a success.

Congratulations to each of the sites. You are doing wonderful work and it is a joy to see all of these young musicians! Thank you so much to each of the sites that hosted us. What an incredible opportunity it was for us to experience your programs!”

**Any Questions?**

- **Judy Bose** ([hudyjill@gmail.com](mailto:hudyjill@gmail.com)) (Please note that the Longy address is no longer in use.)
- **Steven Holochwost** ([steven@wolfbrown.com](mailto:steven@wolfbrown.com))
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