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Transforming Young Musicians: Investigating the Impact of a State College Musical Band Education Project

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ABSTRACT This study examined the perceived effects of a Music Enhancement Training Program implemented at a state college in Naga City, Philippines, on musical skill development, engagement, and retention. A descriptive mixed-methods design was used. Thirty student participants completed two five-point surveys, while students, educators, and administrators participated in semi-structured interviews. Descriptive statistics showed moderate perceived improvement in musical skills (overall mean = 4.21) and agreement that the program supported engagement and retention (overall mean = 4.40). Thematic analysis identified gains in proficiency, motivation, creativity, collaboration, and intention to continue, together with constraints involving instruments, practice spaces, and institutional support. The findings indicate that structured, collaborative training was positively perceived by stakeholders; however, the self-reported, cross-sectional evidence does not establish causal effects. Sustained resourcing, targeted theory and sight-reading instruction, and longitudinal monitoring are recommended.