

For Immediate Release

The Connecticut Film Industry Training Program (FITP), a project funded by the Connecticut Legislature and administered by the Office for Workforce Competitiveness (OWC), announced the launch of its new website on Monday, February 23, 2009. The website can be reached using either of two internet addresses, www.ctfilmworkforce.com and www.ctdigitalworkforce.com.

Designed to provide comprehensive services for the quickly growing film and digital media industry in Connecticut, the site features detailed information and an online application for the 2009 FITP, to be held from June 1 through June 27, 2009 on the campuses of Middlesex Community College in Middletown, Quinnipiac University in Hamden, and Norwalk Community College in Norwalk. Applications are due by April 22. Thus far, over 500 people have requested information about the 2009 program.

149 Connecticut residents received FITP certificates of completion from the Film Division of the Connecticut Department of Culture and Tourism (CCT) in August, 2008. Since the end of that program, approximately 80 FITP graduates have found freelance work in the industry, in spite of small numbers of features shooting in the state due to an anticipated Screen Actors Guild strike.

The website offers extensive resources for persons seeking careers in the industry in Connecticut. Focusing on workforce development, the site provides multiple links in the areas of film and digital media, with detailed listings of in-state employers and resident professionals.

Curriculum, schedule, course descriptions, and an online application for the 2009 FITP, as well as information about the FITP Internship Program, which provides certified graduates the opportunity to work on projects shooting in Connecticut, are also featured. A roster of 2008 graduates is maintained, as well as a system for regular reporting of work activity.

Also to be found on the website are descriptions of various industry educational programs, from secondary school programs to classes for advanced professionals. Samples of student work are included in video format.

A job search engine aids Connecticut residents seeking work, and employers can use the site to post on-going job opportunities in the state. An events and announcements bulletin board also keeps students and resident professionals up-to-date on current industry happenings in Connecticut.

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