

Testimony for the
HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE
AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE
Submitted by Judith B. Greiman

H. B. No. 5585 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING DIGITAL AND FILM MEDIA.

H. B. No. 5509 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FILM INDUSTRY CURRICULUM.

H. B. No. 5510 (RAISED) AN ACT CREATING A SKILLED WORKFORCE FOR CONNECTICUT'S FILM INDUSTRY.

On behalf of the member institutions of the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges (CCIC), **I am submitting testimony in support of HB 5585, 5509 and 5510 that deal with enhancing the film industry in Connecticut.** Implementation of these bills would help to ensure a strong film and digital media industry in Connecticut.

Connecticut's independent colleges are well suited to participate in this burgeoning industry. **We have classic locations that are in great demand by the industry for filming, world-class facilities, faculty and programs for film and digital media academic offerings and engaged students trained in industry specific areas and ready for internships and employment.** We will continue to do even more to support this emerging industry in Connecticut.

In the past few months, in support of the effort, CCIC member institutions have done the following:

- Each school has or is in the process of putting together a CD of photos to be entered into the state location database for review by location scouts.
- Each member school has named a film industry liaison who will serve as the point of contact for film industry queries.
- Wesleyan University is in conversation with representatives of the Connecticut Film Festival to determine whether it is feasible to expand the festival to Middletown and to link it with the renowned Wesleyan film school.
- Quinnipiac University has crafted a model proposal for which it seeks funding that would create a training program for new union trade personnel, non-union production staff. The trainees would create a professional DVD to be used to explain the current tax credit worldwide and to showcase Connecticut as a terrific location venue. While this DVD would be a wonderful addition to the arsenal of those who are promoting Connecticut to the film community, it would actually be the side benefit of the more important training program.

- Several members have hosted location scouts or have responded to requests for suggestions from scouts for various sought after locations and looks.
- The CCIC office has served as a clearinghouse for location scouts, industry representatives and state film staff to link campus and industry representatives.
- Certain member institutions are exploring the possibility of offering degree or certificate programs that will help to expand the trained crew base in Connecticut.
- Campus film liaisons have met with industry advisors to get information on how best to manage filming on campus and marketing and licensing related to the film and digital media industries.
- CCIC staff have encouraged film industry employers to post internships on the free Connecticut based InternHere.com website.

We recognize that our locations and the learning opportunities that we offer will provide much support to the industry and stand ready to assist with the continued development of Hollywood East.