

TESTIMONY RE
PENNSYLVANIA FILM TAX CREDIT

Hello,

My name is Mary Jones and I am the Academic Dean for DuBois Business College. The College has three campuses, all in Pennsylvania: DuBois, Huntingdon, and Oil City.

I am here today to strongly support the Pennsylvania Film Tax Initiative. It acts as "seed money" by rewarding those companies and organizations who are willing to operate in Pennsylvania and therefore willing to pay taxes to increase the funds available for the state budget. The money in the budget is there to ensure that any applications for a tax rebate can be financially covered.

In addition, I would like to remind everyone that eliminating the film tax credit is not like, "in tough times, people need to stay home and save money by not going to the movies." Rather, the film industry provides employment for a wide variety and vast number of people: from caterers who provide meals to the crew, to the rental car companies, dry cleaners, etc.

DuBois Business College will celebrate its 125th anniversary next year. We have long been known for providing quality education that prepares students for success in a variety of careers. We now offer the John Russo Movie Making program which was recently approved by the Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to award an Associate in Specialized Business degree. Our students have worked in and on a variety of film projects in Pittsburgh as well as in our local DuBois area. Students have worked on films for entertainment and on many films that are used for edutainment as many organizations are now standardizing their training through films.

DBC recently hosted a group of 40 students from Southern Allegheny High School who were interested in possibly pursuing a career in the film industry. Largely due to the film tax incentive, we were able to tell them and other potential students that there will continue to be opportunities for employment in Western Pennsylvania and throughout the commonwealth. Most of our students are interested in staying in Pennsylvania after graduation. They are our future and will provide a stable pool of trained workers to attract film projects, tax money, and revenue for the Pennsylvania economy.

Thank you.