



INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE

Institutional Advancement Department

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: 1-866-792-4772 (IRSC)

IRSC STUDENTS HIRED BY DIGITAL DOMAIN HOLDINGS FOR NEW CAREERS IN FILM PRODUCTION

Treasure Coast residents launch new careers in film and visual effects

Eleven students and graduates of Indian River State College have been hired by Digital Domain Holdings and are enthusiastically launching careers in film production and animation with the Academy Award-winning digital production studio. The recent hires developed skills in computer animation, video production and graphic design through the IRSC Digital Media Institute and presented their work portfolios to Digital Domain at a recent Tech Fair. The IRSC students and graduates join other new Digital Domain employees for visual effects training in "The VFX Boot Camp" at the Kight Center for Emerging Technologies and other locations at the IRSC Main Campus in Fort Pierce.

"Digital Domain has been a great partner in the development of the IRSC digital media program, and they recognize the quality of training received by our students. We anticipate growth of both Digital Domain projects and IRSC programs with our graduates becoming a valued part of their workforce," said Jose Farinos, IRSC Dean of Advanced Technology. "This is an unprecedented opportunity for IRSC students to begin a world-class digital media career in their local community."

IRSC offers both two-year and four-year degree programs in various aspects of digital media, including graphics and web design, gaming and video, modeling and simulation.

"This new career is possible because of my training at IRSC where I especially enjoyed developing skills in film and 2D and 3D animation," said Oscar Collazos, 40, of Port St. Lucie. The married father of two formerly worked in furniture sales and banking, but is now eager to embark on his dream career in film production.

A digital production studio focused on visual effects for feature film and advertising production, Digital Domain Holdings is the beneficiary of a state and local incentive package, and, in return, has promised to create at least 500 jobs by 2015. The recent hires of more than 50 new employees have put the company well ahead of its 2010 year-end target of 61 newly created jobs.

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“It is really great for this company to come here and reach out to local residents with job opportunities they never thought imaginable, since jobs like this are usually available in other parts of the country,” said Brian Schultz, 22, a new hire from Port St. Lucie who recently graduated from IRSC. “The awesome teachers in the IRSC digital media program teach you what you need to know for real-world jobs like this. I learned techniques and programs I never would have been able to do on my own.”

“I’m incredibly excited about this new job,” said Richard Hardy, 20, of Port St. Lucie, who plans to continue to develop his skills in graphic design and computer programming with classes at IRSC while working for Digital Domain.

“I’ve always liked visual effects in movies and it’s really exciting to be a part of creating one. I always thought I would have to leave and now this opportunity came to me,” added Eliezer Lancelot, 20, of Port St. Lucie.

Digital Domain Holdings is utilizing facilities in the IRSC Kight Center for Emerging Technologies while its production studio is under construction in Port St. Lucie.

Visit www.irsc.edu or call 1-866-792-4772 to find out about digital media programs at IRSC.

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About Indian River State College

Indian River State College is a public, comprehensive state college serving Florida’s Research Coast with full-service campuses in Fort Pierce, Okeechobee, Port St. Lucie, Stuart and Vero Beach. IRSC has earned a statewide and national reputation for quality, innovation, and responsiveness to community needs, inspiring over 34,000 people to enroll in classes each year. Tuition is affordable, and IRSC students benefit from many opportunities for scholarships and financial aid.

Committed to helping each student succeed, IRSC offers Bachelor’s Degree programs meeting critical workforce needs and Associate in Arts Degree programs for university transfer. Associate in Science Degree, Associate in Applied Science Degree and short-term certificate programs prepare students for careers in health care, technology, business, industry, public safety and many other fields.