



Johnson County Community College Testimony in Support of SB 91:

Enacting the Kansas film and digital media industry production development act

My name is Jim Lane, and I serve as the Dean for the Art, Design, Human and Social Sciences division at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kansas. Johnson County Community College supports the opportunities created by Senate Bill 91.

My division at JCCC includes Film, Media Studies, and Animation degree courses. During my thirty years at our campus, I have seen graduates in these programs consistently depart for other states to find jobs in these fields. This is due, in part, to Kansas being one of a few remaining states in our nation with limited strategies and zero state incentives around film, media and animation industries.

Class offerings in these areas at JCCC are consistently at capacity with credit students seeking credentials in these established and growing industries. On average we graduate 25 to 35 students each May in these areas, the majority of who will leave the state upon graduate.

Kansas produces incredibly talented and creative professionals who would like to see their home state on a level playing field with other states competing in the film and digital media industries. Unfortunately, Kansas remains behind in recognizing through tax policy the economic value of not just these industries, but the ancillary businesses that support this work and the multiple benefits derived from keeping Kansas higher education graduates in Kansas.

On behalf of our students, faculty, business advisory boards and community partners, we thank you for your work on this bill and for consideration of this incentive.

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