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For Immediate Release

Special make-up effects master visits Douglas Education Center

Monessen, PA—Greg Nicotero of KNB EFX Group in California, made his way across the country for a weeklong visit to Douglas Education Center (DEC).

DEC, which offers many creative art programs, has one program in particular that is close to Nicotero's heart: Tom Savini's Special Make-Up Effects Program. Not only is Nicotero an effects master, he is also a longtime friend of Savini.

Nicotero spent his time at DEC holding a 2-hour seminar, speaking with students, critiquing portfolios, and offering his insight into the industry. Nicotero plans to return each semester to work with the next batch of students. This unique networking opportunity will help DEC students develop stronger portfolios and better prepare them for the competitive world of special make-up effects.

Bryan Perkal, a graduate of Tom Savini's Special Make-Up Effects program, and now spending a 5th semester at DEC to further his education, was in awe of Nicotero. "Just having the opportunity to speak with him was amazing," said Perkal. "There were students waiting in line to talk to him, and he was taking their cell phone numbers down to make sure he met with each and every one of them before he left."

Nicotero began his career under the tutelage of director George Romero and effects master Tom Savini in Pittsburgh and quickly relocated to Hollywood. His skills as a prosthetics coordinator helped him adapt easily to the needs of the film industry. He formed KNB EFX Group in 1988 alongside Howard Berger, and over the last nearly two decades, it has become one of the most prolific make-up effects studios in Hollywood.

KNB EFX Group has over 700 movies to their name, including *The Island*, *Amityville Horror*, *Kill Bill*, the *Spy Kids Trilogy*, *Land of the Dead*, *Spawn*, *Army of Darkness*, *Pulp Fiction*, *Ray*, *The Green Mile*, *Indiana Jones 4*, *The Mist*, *Transformers*, and the Robert Rodriguez/Quentin Tarantino collaboration *Grindhouse*.

KNB received the 2001 Emmy Award for Best Visual Effects for the mini-series *Dune*, as well as multiple nominations and awards from the Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror films in recent years. Their contributions to *The Cell* and *The Time Machine* earned Academy Award Nominations for Best Make-up, while the fantasy characters for *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* won them both the British Academy Award and Oscar for Best Achievement in Make-up in 2006.

For more information on Nicotero and KNB EFX Group, please visit www.knbefxgroup.com

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