

For Immediate Release:

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**DOUGLAS EDUCATION CENTER'S YOUTH PROGRAM -
CREATING CAREER MARKETABILITY FOR
WESTMORELAND AND FAYETTE COUNTY YOUTH**

MONESSEN, PA., JUNE 9, 2010 - Douglas Education Center's (DEC) Youth Program in Monessen, Pennsylvania is embarking upon another year working in collaboration with the Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board (WIB).

Acceptance into DEC's Youth Program is based upon approval granted through Westmoreland-Fayette WIB. According to Kate Martin, manager of youth programs for Westmoreland-Fayette WIB, "The programs offered by Douglas Education Center's Youth Program adds value to traditional summer youth programs by providing important educational and cultural enrichment activities such as the arts, literacy, and college and career exploration. We are excited to see that DEC is continuing to expand their unique offerings that encourage growth and improve the quality of life for children and teenagers in our communities." Funding for DEC's Youth Program is provided by Westmoreland-Fayette WIB to support year round youth mentoring activities.

The summer students participating in the Youth Program at DEC will have the opportunity to develop skills in graphic design and video film production. These programs will allow for a unique and seamless introduction for students who are interested in learning how the arts can apply in real-world careers.

Since DEC began its involvement with youth programs in 2000, a wide range of programs have been developed. These include Visual Design, 3D Art, Computer Gaming, Illustration and Special Make-Up Effects. This year, DEC is again eager to provide training to students in the areas of Digital Film Production and Production Art. "We make the students feel welcome, we make it fun, and we open students' eyes to the possibility of a career in the arts," said instructor Shawn Ronzio.

The youth programs run weekly during the months of July and August 2010, with monthly follow-up sessions from September 2010 through June 2011. "Meaningful work experience, both during the summer and throughout the year, provides these youth with invaluable opportunities to learn about career opportunities and to gain the skills necessary to succeed in the workplace," said Patricia DeConcilis, director of education for Douglas Education Center. "These youth will be able to go back to school with foundational work skills and tools that will help carry them forward into a successful career."

Enrollment for both programs is limited, and only open to Westmoreland and Fayette county residents between the ages of 14 and 18. Students must meet income guidelines and regular class attendance is required. Food and a stipend are provided to all participants, and transportation is available in most areas if necessary.

To apply or to receive more information, please visit www.dec.edu/youth or call 1-800-413-6013 x2185.

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ABOUT DOUGLAS EDUCATION CENTER

Established in 1904, Douglas Education Center (DEC) is the premier creative career institution located in Monessen, PA. DEC creates an educational atmosphere that not only fosters the highest standards of excellence in all students, but also helps these students develop an awareness of social responsibility and ethical behavior. DEC offers programs in special make-up effects, digital film, illustration, graphic design, cosmetology, medical and business. DEC instructors are industry professionals who have actual working knowledge and experience in the programs in which they teach.

ABOUT THE WESTMORELAND FAYETTE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

As the leading change agent for workforce development, the Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board's mission is to identify and address gaps in the workforce resources of the counties it serves and to build relationships with employers, educators, economic development committees and/or elected officials in order to facilitate a cooperative effort to meet these needs.