

## **For Immediate Release**

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### **DOUGLAS EDUCATION CENTER'S YOUTH ART PROGRAM: THE CREATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF MURALS AS ARTWORK FOR LOCAL CITIES**

**MONESSEN, PA, JUNE 24, 2011** – This summer will mark over a decade of bringing the young people in the surrounding regions together to learn in a creative atmosphere provided by Douglas Education Center (DEC). DEC's Youth Program has been a hallmark in the Monessen community as an outreach program that brings youth from Fayette and Westmoreland county communities together for a fun, engaging and educational experience. In past years, DEC's Youth Program has covered everything from graphic design, cosmetology, and film production.

This summer, DEC's Youth Program is taking an entirely different approach in the arts. Beginning Tuesday, July 5, young people, ages 14 to 18 years of age, will work on the creation and development of murals as artwork for local cities. Participating students will create a mural tentatively dedicated to the *Enterprise*. The *Enterprise* was a steamboat built in Brownsville, PA in 1814, and the first steamboat to ascend the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. The mural is a commemoration to Brownsville, PA history and will be located at the wharf area in Brownsville.

Jim Winegar, a Greene County artist who serves as vice president of the Artists' Co-op in Washington, PA, and Bobbi Fine, an instructor for Allan and Wilson's Digital Illustration Program at Douglas Education Center, will oversee and teach DEC's Youth Program. "It's really important to foster creative problem-solving among young people," said Winegar.

Implementing effective youth programs requires close collaborations at different levels of the community. Winegar added, "The arts are uniquely suited to act as a tool to teach and learn the complicated nuances of social interaction and communication; and that artistic experiences nurture growth, leading to individuals who are better able to live, work and make positive contributions to our society."

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

rogram adds value to traditional summer youth programs 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 Youth Program is still accepting applicants. Youth, ages 14 to 18 years of age, must meet income guidelines, be a Westmoreland or Fayette County resident, and attend classes regularly. Students who are interested in careers in the arts, graphic design, and commercial entertainment industries should consider this program. Participating students will develop skills that will help increase their career marketability.

Classes begin Tuesday, July 5, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. through August. Classes will meet once a month, thereafter, from September through June 2012. Bus transportation from specific pick up points will be provided. Participating students will receive a meal for every class. A stipend will also be paid to students. For more information, please call Douglas Education Center at 724-684-3684.

#### **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, fantasy art, graphic design and web, cosmetology, medical and business. DEC instructors are industry professionals who have actual working knowledge and experience in the programs in which they teach.