



## **Noted CT Actors Support State Film Industry Training Program; Will Star in Student Project**

*Program Begins June 4 at Quinnipiac University*

WETHERSFIELD, May 8, 2012 – Actors John Ratzenberger, most remembered as Cliff Clavin on the popular TV series *Cheers*, and Frank Converse, who appeared in *Law and Order*, *Movin' On*, and numerous network soap operas, will both star in a short film to be produced by trainees of the upcoming 2012 Connecticut Film Industry Training Program.

State Labor Commissioner Glenn Marshall announced today that the training program, held annually at Quinnipiac University and now in its fifth year, begins June 4 and is currently accepting applications. The program is open exclusively to Connecticut residents who want to develop the skills necessary for working in the state's rapidly growing film, television, and digital media industry.

"Thanks to the film and media tax credits we offer, a growing number of top production companies have been bringing their business, as well as jobs, to our state," Commissioner Marshall noted. "Connecticut is now established as a prime production location but now we must continue our efforts to develop a skilled, in-state workforce that can fill these industry jobs. By building a job-ready workforce to fill jobs in the film industry, we are providing additional incentive for producers to select Connecticut as the location for their next film or television project."

"This training program helps grow our film industry by strengthening the infrastructure that has already become attractive to many well-known production companies," noted Catherine Smith, Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development. "By increasing the skills of our residents, we can create new, well-paying jobs and attract more long-term projects, such as television shows and digital projects."

Areas of specialization offered in the training program are Assistant Directing, Production Office Coordination, Script Supervision, Lighting and Grip, Camera, Sound, and Props and Set Dressing. Upon completion of the program, graduates receive a certificate of completion from the state's Office of Film, Television, and Digital Media.

The program is taught by working motion picture professionals from Connecticut and the greater NYC area, and covers the basics of feature and episodic television production.

- more -

**Media Contact:** Nancy Steffens, Communications Director

200 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield, CT 06109-1114  
Phone: (860) 263-6535 – Fax: (860) 263-6536 – [www.ct.gov/dol](http://www.ct.gov/dol)  
*An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer*

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

CT Department of Labor *Communications Office*

-2-

This year's movie project was co-written and will be directed by Director's Guild of America member Richard Dobbs. The Easton resident, a long-time director and crew member of the TV series, Law and Order, has served as director and mentor for the 421 trainees who have graduated the training program since 2008.

"This comprehensive program offers students the opportunity to gain specialized skills and intensive hands-on experience that can lead to careers in the film industry," said Rina Bakalar, Executive Director of the Office of Workforce Competitiveness. "In addition, attendees have the valuable and unique opportunity to build relationships with accomplished professionals in the field."

For information and a course description, or to download an application to enter the Connecticut Film Industry Training Program, please visit [www.ctfilmworkforce.com](http://www.ctfilmworkforce.com). Each student pays a \$500 application fee which is used to support overall program costs.

Applications must be submitted by 5 p.m., May 31, 2012 and accepted applicants will be notified via email or telephone.