

WSCC offering digital animation design class

SCOTTVILLE – West Shore Community College is offering a new class in digital animation design (BCAS 101-21) when the fall semester begins on September 2.

Students taking the course will learn to use LightWave 3D. Often referred to as “the industry’s secret weapon,” the 3D software is one of the most popular packages on the market today, offering the most complete set of tools, the best-looking and fastest out-of-the-box renderer, and one of the most powerful IK engines available.

Students will also be given an introduction to animation techniques, surfacing, lighting, and modeling.

This course is a main component of a newly revised Computer Animation and Visual Effects program offered by the college.

“The new curriculum is designed with the sole purpose of providing students with the skills and experience needed to be immediately employed in a production facility of their choice, and/or prepare them to make use of Michigan’s film industry incentives and network with others to create their own independent projects,” said Dr. Pat Collins, Dean of Workforce Development.

The class is designed and will be taught by Timothy Albee who has worked in the animation and entertainment industry since 1990 as a writer, director, animator, concept artist, and studio owner/executive. Some of Albee’s credits include:

■ Lost Treasure of the Grand Canyon (2008) – Head of Creature Animation

■ Battlestar Galactica: Razor (2007) – Lead Character Animator

■ Walt Disney’s Dinosaur

(2000) - Animation

■ Bionic Woman (pilot episode – 2007) – Lead Character Animator

■ Babylon 5 (season 5 -1997-98) - Animation

Albee has co-founded two animation studios in the Los Angeles area and has written, produced, and directed three short films including Kaze, Ghost Warrior. He is also the author of several books related to animation and visual effects.

“An animation and visual effects graduate will be able to effectively compete with graduates from the top film schools in North America, and be prepared for a career in the rapidly growing areas of feature films, television, animation, visual effects, video games, interactive media and countless other industries that use animated characters images and/or graphics to communicate with their audiences,” Collins added.

The first class meeting is a required orientation on Tues. Sept. 8, from 3 to 4:20 p.m. in Technical Center room 203. The hybrid class will be taught on-line using video streaming with occasional classroom meetings scheduled during the semester.

Registration for WSCC’s fall semester is underway and will continue to the first week of the term’s classes.

Class and online course schedules can be viewed under the “Academics” tab on the college’s web site at www.westshore.edu.

A printed course schedule, curriculum guide, registration and financial aid information are available from the Student Services Office located in the Schoenherr Campus Center or by calling 843-5946.