

For Immediate Release



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Augusta Technical College brings film training to the CSRA in partnership with the Georgia Film Academy & indiegrip.com, LLC

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Augusta Technical College is excited to announce the offering of film training in the Augusta's River Region in spring 2022. The college is partnering with the Georgia Film Academy to offer classes in Augusta. The Georgia Film Academy is a collaboration of the University System of Georgia and the Technical College System of Georgia created by state leadership to meet education and work force needs for high-demand careers in Georgia's film and creative industries.

Founded in 2015, the Georgia Film Academy offers rigorous professional training and leads to union-covered film and television production craft internships and placement in creative industries, apprenticeships and jobs.

"The Georgia Film Academy is excited to welcome Augusta Technical College into its undergraduate consortium for world-class film production training," says Jeffrey Stepakoff, Executive Director of the Georgia Film Academy. "This kind of partnership is what makes our film & digital entertainment industry so robust and successful in the great state of Georgia."

In partnership with the Georgia Film Academy the college will offer courses at indiegrip.com, LLC. Founded by Mr. Rick Kelly, indiegrip.com supports the film industry by leasing equipment and talent to film crews working throughout the CSRA. indiegrip.com will provide access to their facilities for hands-on instruction.

"We at indiegrip.com, LLC are honored to be a part of this exciting new partnership. Our mission has always been to welcome anyone interested in helping to make Film Production a successful part of our community. By participating in this partnership, we stay true to that commitment. We are thankful for this wonderful opportunity and look forward to growing our talented crew base here in Augusta," stated Mr. Kelly.

Film in Georgia is a multi-billion-dollar industry, and Augusta's growth in film productions has been exponential. "Since 2019 film productions have generated nearly \$5 Million in economic impact in Augusta and supported nearly 500 jobs held by local film crew personnel," said Jennifer Bowen, Film Liaison Film Augusta. "In that time Augusta locations were used by big screen giants such as Clint Eastwood's *The Mule*, James Gunn's *Suicide Squad*, and

Discovery Channel's Getaway Driver. As important, are the independently produced films which consistently choose Augusta. Offering the Georgia Film Academy courses in Augusta through Augusta Tech and indiegrip.com helps grow the local film workforce making Augusta an even more attraction production center. Film Augusta is grateful to have played a role facilitating this partnership and looks forward to helping to promote these classes to community."

"Augusta has been the backdrop to numerous film projects over the years. It seems only natural for the Georgia Film Academy and Augusta Technical College to partner to educate and produce the next crop of film industry leaders. This partnership will provide transformative opportunities in high-demand careers in Georgia's film and creative industries for students across the entire Augusta region," said Mayor Hardie Davis, Jr.

Augusta Technical College will offer GFA's film and television certification program which encompasses an 18-hour (3 courses) non-credit program of study. The first course begins in January 2022, once a week on Fridays, from 10am-4pm. The cost for the course is \$750.00. Interested participants should contact the Augusta Technical College Corporate and Community Education Department at ccetraining@augustatech.edu to sign up for the limited spaces.

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About Augusta Technical College

Augusta Technical College, a unit of the Technical College System of Georgia, is a public postsecondary institution that provides academic and technical education, customized business and industry training, continuing education, student support, economic development, and adult education services to its service area (Burke, Columbia, Lincoln, McDuffie, and Richmond Counties) at a competitive financial value. Associate of Science Degrees, Associate of Applied Science Degrees, diplomas, and technical certificates of credit are provided through traditional and distance delivery methods. For more information, visit augustatech.edu.

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