

To the CTE Awards Panel,

I'm a Wedding and Portrait Photographer based in Cecil County, Maryland, and have been working Visual Communications (VC) students from Cecil College for the past ten years. The VC program provides students the technical, conceptual, and business skills to become professional image makers. This is a fact, because I happen to be one of these students and business is great!

I graduated from the VC program in 2010 and secured an internship during my last semester with studio photographer, Floyd Dean in Wilmington, DE. After graduation, I continued working with Floyd and started building my own client base. I'm so grateful for the opportunities Cecil provided and wanted to give back to the school by providing internships and employment opportunities to students.

Six years ago, I was asked to provide feedback on the current state of photography and business in the regional area by the VC department at Cecil. This led to an honorary position on the program's advisory board where I've been providing feedback on new technology in the industry and participating in the development of new courses; Portrait Photography and Wedding Photography. These courses are run in Spring and Summer, so by the Fall wedding season, students have the skills to participate in an internship or employment.

I should mention that the Portrait and Wedding classes have multiple pre-requisites in studio-based photography, so students have a solid background when entering the workforce.

Jennie Campbell
JC Photography

To the Career Technical Education panel,

I am the owner of Dean Digital Imaging in Wilmington, Delaware with over thirty years of experience in the photography industry. Ten years ago, I began employing graduates of the Visual Communications Program at Cecil College and continue to work with current students through their internship program. I'm also an advisory board member, and have a great relationship with the department chair, Daniel Krukosky, and Lab Manager, Barry Gorrell. Through this partnership, I've initiated changes to the course content and equipment purchases. Cecil is in a position to offer students excellent technical training at a great value. I'm sure of this because the program purchases and trains students on the same equipment I'm using in the studio every day.

Their connection to the community through viscom and tech prep events provides a positive career path for students looking to gain applied skills. They have partnered with Cecil County Public Schools to provide...

encouraged the department to provide additional technical training in studio photography and provide insight on industry-standard lighting and camera gear. For example, the Vis Com department has been purchasing more Sony-based camera gear for student use in the studio and on location.

Floyd Dean
Dean Digital