

# REGIONAL PROGRAM ADVISORY MEETING

<b>Date and Time</b>	April 11, 2023 from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
<b>Occupation Focus</b>	<b>Digital Media &amp; Entertainment (DME)</b>
<b>Location</b>	Zoom Meeting
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## Key Takeaways

1. Workforce Trends
  - a. Industry partners indicate talent in production (i.e. production accountants and assistants) are currently most in need.
  - b. Industry is also highly interested in aiding diverse talent to enter into DME careers
  - c. Industry partners also mentioned an increased need in talent that has environmental, social, and governance knowledge or experience, specifically in the implementation of sustainable sets
2. Technology in Industry
  - a. Industry partners have suggested exposing students to AI technology as it is being incorporated into the entertainment industry
    - i. A recommendation was made for a capstone type project to be required of students towards the end of the program as a tangible piece to add to their portfolio. Students could be given the freedom to explore advancements in industry such as AI.
3. Essential skills
  - a. For students to succeed in this sector they should have the following skills:

i. Networking	v. Communication
ii. Soft Skills	vi. Professionalism
iii. Collaboration	vii. Leadership
iv. Creativeness	viii. Versatility
  - b. Industry also highly recommends students have opportunities to connect with recent alumni and the entry-level workforce in order for them to conceptualize what is required to achieve that position
4. Further Collaboration
  - a. Workforce Investment Boards also have access to grants which can fund apprenticeship programs and workforce training programs in collaboration with industry and education.
  - b. Warner Bros Discovery offers “Access to Action” which provides individuals who haven’t traditionally had pathways into the entertainment industry with access to entry-level, below-the-line jobs on Warner Bros. Discovery film and television productions. The program fosters a more creative and inclusive production workforce and aligns with the company's commitment to diversity and inclusion.
  - c. The Television Academy Foundation also offers internship opportunities at studios, networks, and production companies across the entertainment industry where interns receive direct mentorship and access to industry practices, processes, and opportunities for professional networking.

- d. Dreamworks offers Early Careers, an internship program that offers students and recent grads the opportunity to work alongside artists and storytellers in TV and Feature Animation. Interns take a deep dive into real productions, learn the 2D & CG pipeline and get a taste for what it is like to work in a creative environment.