



Albuquerque GigaPoP's Digital Media Focus

Albuquerque GigaPoP's (ABQG) ongoing commitment serves to actively support social, cultural, and economic development in our communities to enhance the quality of life for all New Mexicans. Two examples of this commitment are The Interdisciplinary Film and Digital Media Program (IFDM) and supporting the New Mexico Film Industry. Both also require large bandwidth utilization, low latency, national and international connectivity and availability on demand. Although large circuits can be leased from local telecommunications providers, most often these circuits are shared and will not meet the demand of the customer. ABQG is the answer in providing this kind of service and is securing an unmet need for the entire state.

IFDM at the University of New Mexico is a model of interdisciplinary education for the twenty-first century that will give our students necessary critical, creative, and technical skills to apply digital technologies in innovative and productive ways. This program builds on ARTS Lab (Arts Research Technology and Science Laboratory), established in 2005 under the Media Industries Strategy Plan. Coordinating ARTS Lab with existing strengths at UNM in Fine Arts, Engineering, Arts and Sciences, and Anderson Schools of Management, along with other schools and colleges, the Film and Digital Media Program has four objectives:

1. Integrate Filmmaking and Digital Media
2. Build a Native New Mexican Hollywood
3. Train the Citizens of New Mexico
4. Foster Research

New Mexico has provided tax incentives to film productions since the film production tax credit was adopted in 2002. The program has attracted more than 115 major film productions to New Mexico since its adoption in 2002, including 22 films that were assisted through the State Investment Council's loan participation program. In 2007, 30 films were produced in New Mexico generating \$253 million of spending benefiting the New Mexico economy and generating higher state and local tax collections. This study presents the estimated economic and fiscal impact of the film production tax credit program. The benefits of New Mexico's film production tax credit program extend beyond the direct and indirect economic impacts of film production activities qualifying for tax credits. In addition to the film spending, New Mexico's economy also benefits from capital investment to support the film industry's growth in the state and additional film-related tourism. Film production activities in New Mexico created 2,220 direct jobs in 2007. This employment impact includes approximately 1,670 below the line employees earning \$49,500 annually and 550 actors, directors, and producers working in New Mexico. These 2,220 direct jobs created 1,609 additional jobs in other industries, resulting in a total employment impact of 3,829 jobs.

About the Albuquerque GigaPoP: ABQG is a state-of-the-art interconnection facility designed to serve research and education programs in New Mexico. ABQG is a project of the University of New Mexico in collaboration with New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, New Mexico State University, New Mexico Council for Higher Education Computing Communication Services (CHECS) and the New Mexico State Agency of IT. ABQG is operated by the University of New Mexico. For more information, please visit <http://abqg.unm.edu/>