



# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

For Immediate Release  
February 14, 2007

Contact: Allan Oliver  
(Santa Fe) 505-476-2214

### **Governor Richardson Grants \$50,000 to 4<sup>th</sup> Annual IAIA Summer Workshop for Native American Filmmakers**

SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today announced that he has authorized a grant of \$50,000 to put professional quality digital equipment and software in the hands of aspiring Native American filmmakers. The money comes from the Governor's Media Industry Strategy Program.

"This grant to the Institute of American Indian Arts Summer Television and Film Workshop means putting more Native American talent behind the camera and on the screen. Students who attend this summer's workshop will learn screenwriting, production, and post-production skills from professional filmmakers," said Governor Richardson.

Several films created at the summer workshop have been accepted in several national Native American Indian Film Festivals. "Benito's Gift," a 2006 Governor's Cup winner, was shot at Taos Pueblo by students of the Governor's Film Technicians' Training Program and the IAIA Summer Television and Film Workshop. Nine workshop graduates have been awarded Scholarship Grants or Fellowships from the Disney/ABC Talent Development Programs.

"I'm also proud the Institute of American Indian Arts will continue to collaborate with Disney/ABC Television, Talent Development Program and the Walt Disney Studio to help share the cost of the IAIA Summer Television and Film workshop," said Governor Richardson. "Disney/ABC Television has been a valuable partner in this effort."

This experience gained at this workshop will help graduates get a job in New Mexico's booming film and television market. In the past four years, New Mexico has hosted more than 60 films, with an economic impact close to \$1 billion dollars, and created a growing demand for qualified film technicians. To meet that demand the New Mexico State Film Office sponsored more than 24 intensive training classes for film crews and supported the efforts of IAIA Summer workshop.

"It's my hope that we will continue to build a new group of filmmakers that better reflect the tremendous diversity and rich heritage of our state," said Governor Richardson.

#30#