

Dream factory

THIS week's announcement that Silicon Graphics and Capilano College are teaming up to open a \$2.5 million animation lab at the college is a perfect example of how business and education can work together.

For decades now the college has positioned itself to be at the forefront of creative media technology. Television, film and the emerging multimedia mediums are all strongly supported.

The partnership with Silicon Graphics will provide a place for people already working in the film industry to get access to leading-edge animation and digital special effects technology.

The whiz-bang magic of a movie like Titanic was created by Silicon Graphics know-how.

Soon more of it will be made in B.C. by people trained on the North Shore.

The burgeoning B.C. film industry is currently being held back due to the lack of resources like the lab scheduled to open at the college later this year.

The talent is simply going elsewhere right now. Soon the work will be coming to where the talent is.

What's especially sweet about this deal is that it is a cost-recoverable arrangement. The college will be leasing the equipment. The students enrolled in the program will be paying the leasing costs. Cash-strapped taxpayers will not be footing the bill.

The initiative goes a long way to firming up the reality of the nascent dream factory some call Hollywood North.