Talking Points Regarding the Film and Video Program at Seattle Central Community College

What is at Stake
Some quick facts on the value and quality of the program:

- This is a 2-year lock step AAS Degree Program the content spans production, history, writing, technical skills and analysis.
- Students can transfer many (in some cases all) credits to continue to a 4-year degree or they can pursue a career
- We have been here for 26 years
- Every year, 44-50 students attend this program – we turn people away because we do not have the room to accommodate more
- We have not had an empty seat in the entering class in over 11 years
- The curriculum is accredited and transferable to many colleges and universities – this is an arduous achievement and valuable asset
- There is no analogous program in our area – closest is $25K per year and arguably of less quality.
- Local relationships built for internships, collaboration and future employment are real assets
- We serve the highest amount of minority students, single parents and marginalized populations in any media production education program in the area
- The work speaks for itself: http://vimeo.com/25298042

What faculty have tried to save the program:

- When told of the vulnerability, we presented information to correct factual inaccuracies
- We still do not understand why they are closing us - the expense of this program is not remarkable among Professional Technical Programs
- We offered cost-saving measures as we understood them
- We gathered testimonials from graduates, business owners and community members about our value and quality
- We met with the Chancellor, Vice President, President to ask for a collaborative approach to keep program open
- We presented all of this to the Board of Trustees
- We created a proposal to cut our costs in half to get the current students their degree and give us the time to reconfigure the program with the community to come back in a way that the college could afford.
- We spent countless hours meeting with local film community members to begin to gather commitments for this approach
- We met with the Presidents' Cabinet to present this proposal

The numbers according to the college

Direct Instruction Cost per FTE	($5,605)
Institutional Support (applied to all programs@39.05%)	($3,592)
Total Cost per FTE	($9,197)
Under proposal	
Costs for 25 FTE target 2012-2013 (25x$9197)	($224,282)
Savings accrued under proposal	$95,965
Cost for target FTE's	($128,317)
Revenue for FTE's (tuition+ State allocation $5,582 per)	$139,558
Net PROFIT to the College under proposal	$11,241

What we are asking for now

Given that there would be NO COST to the college to keep us open next year, we cannot understand why they would close us now. We want another year and a commitment from the institution to work with us to reconfigure our well-respected and valuable program to be back at full capacity by September of 2013.

We are asking that the faculty, students, graduates and local film community be given the opportunity to work with the college to continue the tradition of a top-shelf media education at Seattle Central Community College.