



17 E. Taylor St., Champaign, IL 61820 | 217.351.4133
experiencecu.org

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Media Contacts:

Mark Brown: (217) 351-4133 or markb@experiencecu.org
Jennifer Shelby: (217) 840-4290 or flyoverfilmstudios@gmail.com

Grant Awarded Champaign County Film Studio to Build Soundstage

Champaign, IL — Governor Pritzker announced the awardees of the Illinois Soundstage Capital Grant Program through the Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity, including Champaign County business, Flyover Film Studios, LLC to develop a soundstage in Rantoul. Flyover Film Studios was founded by local filmmakers, Luke Boyce, Brett Hays, and Jennifer Shelby of Shatterglass Films, Dustin Hoke of Dustin Hoke Services and Rob Stern and Sarah Sharp of The Line Film Company. The team has been working behind the scenes on this endeavor since Spring 2022.

All six founders have strong backgrounds in film, tv and commercial production and have served in a variety of roles on different projects, including several films shot in Champaign County over the past few years.

“This is a big step towards developing Champaign County as a filming destination,” says Jennifer Shelby, co-founder of Shatterglass Films. “This will be the only soundstage of this size in Illinois outside of Chicago, and will be critical for attracting commercial and independent filmmakers to our area.”

“This will help give local filmmakers in central Illinois some additional tools to compete at a national level,” said State Senator Paul Faraci (D-Champaign). “If we want to bring economic opportunity to our area through film, it’s important that the infrastructure is in place to make it happen.”

“The development of this soundstage in Rantoul will be an economic driver to our community,” shares Mayor Charles Smith. “We have worked hard to put this infrastructure in to place so we can welcome film makers to the area, while also creating jobs for the hardworking people of Rantoul.”

The stages are being built in what was formally known as Hangar One on the historic Chanute Air Force Base property. The facility has 290,000 square feet of interior space and will be able to house multiple soundproof stages, mill space for set creation, and lock up space for crews to securely hold their equipment during multiday shoots. A unique feature will be the fact that they will offer a variety of pre-built staging sets. Flyover intends to operate as a sustainable, full-service production studio by Fall of 2026.

With the announcement of this award and the upcoming securities offering they are doing under the guidance of Red Rock Securities Law Firm, they are poised to begin construction of the first of two 50,000 sq. ft. soundstages. They will also add additional mill space and lock up for crew gear. Flyover is currently working with productions that need room to build sets and to shoot.

“The film industry brings significant impact to our community and this grant is only going to help increase revenue to our region,” states Mark Brown, Director of Sports, Events, & Film for Experience Champaign-Urbana which hosts Film Champaign-Urbana. “Utilizing indoor space, we’ll now be able to welcome film crews year-round, driving traffic to area hotels and caterers, while also creating job opportunities in our area.”

Shatterglass was recently awarded their third Work Force Grant from the State of Illinois and beginning in February the team will be training a new cohort in set construction and grip and electrical. They are committed to increasing employment and growing the film industry in Central Illinois.



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Supplementing these efforts are the new Film Workshop Series that are a collaboration between these studios and Film Champaign-Urbana to engage the community in the film industry. For more information on these workshops, visit filmcu.org.

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