

# Mission Moment



## Professor Paul Restivo, MFA

*Paul is an independent filmmaker based in Northwest Indiana whose work has been exhibited worldwide. He is an Assistant Professor and the Director of the Digital and Studio Arts Program. He holds a Master of Fine Arts in Film and Television Directing from DePaul University and lives in Chesterton, Indiana with his wife, son, dog, and ten chickens.*

Catholic education is an integral part of my life. I attended Catholic Pre-K through 8th grade, where my faith was able to thrive in an academic setting and I had the opportunity to serve as an Altar Server. This experience solidified the importance to attend a Catholic University as I continued my higher-ed journey. The Catholic church has a strong tradition of patronizing education, sciences, and the arts—a tradition that continues to this day. I attended Loyola University Chicago for two years before transferring to DePaul University to study Digital Cinema Production, where I finished my bachelor's degree and then earned my Master of Fine Arts.

I believe that education is the ultimate equalizer, which is why I always knew I wanted to give back and teach others to excel in and out of the classroom. Digital arts blend creativity and technical elements, making it appealing for many students to try. I enjoy helping ARTS majors sharpen these skills and introducing non-majors to new creative experiences. I love being a Professor at CCSJ because I get to expose students to some of the same industry-standard gear and software used at the top art schools in the world. Hands-on practice is prioritized in my classrooms. I often bring students into the field for professional development work opportunities, including on film sets and photography shoots, as well as programming their work in multiple local art shows each academic year. Other key facets of my teaching philosophy are building “real world skills”, including academic honesty, communication, punctuality, being open to challenging your own ideas, and mutual respect—all of which will help students after their formal studies are completed. This affirms the inherent dignity of all people and often helps students see things in a different light and find common ground.