Career Skills You Learn in the DIT Program
(adapted from several published articles, especially one by Valerie Strauss in the *Washington Post*, January 23, 2013)

The movement to include Graphic Communications (art, design, photography, publishing) careers in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) emphasis is growing — including art/graphics careers under the "T" of technology. Computer-based and digital technology is the foundation of modern graphic communications careers. Many educators agree that skills learned in the creative disciplines are important in both academic and life success.

Graphic Communications careers include the following expectations:
1. **Creativity** – Being able think creatively and to approach tasks from different perspectives will empower the worker in graphic communications and all careers.
2. **Confidence** – Confidence develops through practice, learning from mistakes, and delivering quality results as a final outcome.
3. **Problem Solving** – Problem solving develops skills in analyzing, reasoning and understanding
4. **Perseverance** – In an increasingly competitive marketplace skills hard work, practice, perseverance and overcoming challenges are essential to career success.
5. **Focus** – The ability to focus and maintain concentration on task are key skills developed through experience with teamwork, managing multiple client projects, and achieving project completion within time constraints.
6. **Constructive Feedback** – Learning to give and receive constructive feedback is essential in the creative world and in all career areas. Critique is a valuable experience and greatly contributes to the success of a project.
7. **Collaboration** – Shared responsibility, compromise, accomplishment of a common goal, respect for the work contributions, and completion of one's own contributions are all aspects of collaboration that lead to successful career skills.
8. **Dedication** – Motivation for success, on-time work attendance, combined with a feeling of accomplishment are all the result of dedication to excellence in learning and work performance.
9. **Accountability** – Recognizing and learning from mistakes is a regular part of the process of learning in the graphic communications careers. Whether working individually or in teams, working in the creative and/or production environment, the goal to meet the clients needs on time makes everyone learn accountability.