



For Immediate Release

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**Former MCTC student and screenwriter receives \$25,000 McKnight
Screenwriting Fellowship**

Minneapolis, September 8, 2009—Karen Frank, a former student of the Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC) Screenwriting Program, recently was honored with a \$25,000 McKnight Screenwriting Fellowship, the most prestigious screenwriting competition in the Upper Midwest.

IFP Minnesota and the McKnight Foundation awarded two \$25,000 fellowships to Minnesota screenwriters in 2009. The fellowships honor the professional and artistic accomplishments of Minnesota screenwriters.

Frank earned the fellowship for her screenplay *The Ghosts of Gray's Pond*, which chronicles the adventures of a Ph.D candidate who risks more than her career when she investigates a string of mysterious deaths stretching back to the eighteenth century.

Frank holds a master's degree in literature from Ohio University and attended MCTC in 2001. "I had a stage play background when I came to MCTC," says Frank. "I wouldn't have known how to write a screenplay. The classes I took with Professor Hafed Bouassida were fantastic, and the small class size was a big factor in my learning experience," she said.

During the past several years, Frank has completed six feature screenplays, two stage plays and several short film scripts, including the script for the film *Beam*, which was entered in the 2008 Screenlabs Challenge. In 2008, her feature script *Grave Matters* was a McKnight Finalist, Page International Screenplay Competition Quarterfinalist, and Blue Cat Screenplay Competition Semifinalist (and again in 2009).

Frank says she's planning to quit one of her part-time jobs to spend more time writing, now that she has received the McKnight Fellowship. "I may even return to MCTC to take a film editing class," she said.