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MASSDIGI RECEIVES GRANT FROM ESA FOUNDATION

Funding Will Enhance Student Video Game Design Programs in New England

December 13, 2013 – Worcester, Mass. – The ESA Foundation (ESAF) has awarded the Massachusetts Digital Games Institute (MassDiGI) at Becker College a \$25,000 grant to expand high school student participation in the annual MassDiGI Game Challenge and launch MassDiGI 101, a series of mini workshops focused on game design and development.

"Students are more curious about game development than ever before," said Timothy Loew, executive director of MassDiGI. "ESAF's grant will allow us to connect with more young people in more places around Massachusetts and New England."

The annual Game Challenge is a pitch competition that helps aspiring game developers launch their games, meet industry mentors, and share ideas. The 2014 Game Challenge will be held on March 7 and 8 in Cambridge, Mass.

The ESAF grant will also help launch MassDiGI 101, a collaborative initiative between MassDiGI and local partners that will offer mini workshops in game design and development to students at select cities across New England.

"ESAF is proud to support MassDiGI and its important efforts to equip students with the twenty-first century skills they need to succeed in today's economy," said Jenny Lai, vice president of ESAF. "Game design programs such as the MassDiGI Game Challenge and MassDiGI 101 open new doors for students and prepare them to be the technological leaders and innovators of tomorrow."

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About MassDiGI

The Massachusetts Digital Games Institute (MassDiGI) at Becker College is a statewide center for academic cooperation, entrepreneurship, and economic development across the local games ecosystem. For more information about MassDiGI, please visit <http://www.massdigi.org> or on Twitter [@Mass_DiGI](https://twitter.com/Mass_DiGI).

About Becker College

The Princeton Review ranks Becker College as one of the best 378 colleges in the U.S. Becker's undergraduate video game design program has been top-ranked by The Princeton Review for four consecutive years and is one of the top three in Massachusetts and top 15 nationwide. In 2011, Becker was designated by state officials as host of the Massachusetts Digital Games Institute (MassDiGI). With a 99% placement rate for its graduates for employment or further study, Becker serves more than 1,900 students from across the country and around the world and offers a wide range of quality degrees that launch careers, from top nursing and animal studies programs, to a variety of adult learning options. For more information about Becker College, please visit <http://www.becker.edu>.

About ESA Foundation

Created by the American entertainment software industry, the ESA Foundation (ESAF) works to make a positive difference in the lives of America's youth by providing scholarships to the next generation of industry innovators and supporting organizations that leverage entertainment software and technology to create educational opportunities. ESAF is primarily supported by proceeds from its signature annual fundraiser, "Nite to Unite – for Kids" and other charitable initiatives. For more information about ESAF, please visit <http://www.esafoundation.org> or on Twitter: [@ESA Foundation](https://twitter.com/ESA_Foundation).

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