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MVCTC Students Win Game & Simulation Technology Showcase

Portsmouth, Ohio – Miami Valley Career Technology Center (MVCTC) students from the Computer Technology Academy – Game Programming and Web Applications program attended the Shawnee 10.0 Immersive Game & Simulation Technologies Conference on November 2, 2012, at Shawnee State University in Portsmouth, Ohio. Students learned about getting in to the world of professional video game design.

The students had the opportunity to visit the campus to determine if this is a college for beginning their Game Programming careers. Students also actively networked with college students and professors, and had the opportunity to both hear, and speak candidly to Mr. Steve Reid, Executive Vice President/Managing Director for Red Storm Entertainment, responsible for creating the Ghost Recon series of video games. During the conference, students learned about how motion capture animation worked, integrating motion sensors such as smart phones, Kinect and Wii controllers, and GPS devices into any software environment, real-time rendering of video capture, tips for breaking into the video game industry, and details on how video games are designed from concept through final release for sound, artwork, animation, and game branding.

Two MVCTC students were awarded prizes at the showcase for projects they created while attending MVCTC. Senior Jean-Pierre Peart (Northmont) won first place in the High School Showcase for the game he developed, "Project Juggernaut". Jean-Pierre was awarded a $75 gift card to GameStop. Senior Alex Snyder (Bethel) won second place in the High School Showcase for his game "Slayer 2". He was also awarded a $75 gift card to GameStop.

MVCTC first place winner, Jean-Pierre, plans to use the Tech Prep Scholarship he will earn from MVCTC to attend Sinclair Community College next year to pursue an associate's degree in Computer Information Systems. After that he hopes to attend a four year college and work towards a bachelor and master's degree in Computer Science and to one day open his own video game design company. Jean-Pierre said of his time at MVCTC, "MVCTC has been a great experience, and has prepared me for my future by granting me skills to be successful, and really helped me in deciding what I wanted to do with my life."

Melissa Seifman, MVCTC CTA instructor, said of the conference, "This conference was brimming with helpful information and interesting learning workshops for the students. The students called this field trip "epic" and simply couldn't stop talking about what they had seen, heard, or who they spoke to. To see J.P. and Alex take 1st and 2nd place among selected high school showcases when there were 300 applicants to showcase was the highlight of my day! What these two young men accomplished with their personal programming projects is impressive, and I'm so proud of them for their accomplishments."

Students in the MVCTC Computer Technology Academy – Game Programming & Web Applications Tech Prep program learn to create software applications, 3D animations, computer games, and interactive web applications using programming code and specialized software. They also learn to design a complete web e-commerce site using Java programming and create web pages that have creative visitor interaction. The MVCTC Computer Technology Academy programs allow students to earn college credit and the potential to receive a Tech Prep scholarship to Sinclair Community College worth thousands of dollars. MVCTC alumni from the Computer Technology Academy have received job offers right out of high school with employers such as Teradata, Premier Health Partners, Montgomery County Auditor's Office, the U. S. Marines, and Woolpert. Jobs in Computer Information Technology continue to be some of the fastest growing areas where skilled employees are needed.

The annual MVCTC Sophomore Career Day visits are scheduled for December 4-6, 2012; please talk to your student's high school guidance counselor for more information about attending one of these visit days. The annual MVCTC Sophomore Open House is scheduled for Thursday, December 6, 4:30-7 p.m. This is a great opportunity to tour the MVCTC campus, meet instructors, and learn more about all of the career and college opportunities that MVCTC offers for both high school and adult learners. For more information about the MVCTC Computer Technology Academy program, please visit www.mvctc.com/CT .

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