



News



Futures First Gaming and Wilmington University Partner to Support Esports and Gaming Students

WILMINGTON, DE (April 11, 2022) – Futures First Gaming (FFG) and Wilmington University (WilmU) today announced the signing of an academic partnership agreement. This is the first step toward developing degree and certificate pathways for students in the esports and gaming communities, providing them STEM-based credentials for success in the booming industry.

Stephen Sye, CEO of Futures First Gaming, is excited to partner with Wilmington University. “One of the most crucial priorities we identified from the outset of our company’s launch was the need for educational credentials in our programming,” he said. “We accomplished this by identifying a university partner who shared our vision to provide innovative STEM education to today’s youth that also shares our commitment to providing equitable opportunities to underrepresented groups and the industry’s growth in this region.”

“Wilmington University is excited to partner with Futures First Gaming,” said Lindsay Rice, senior director of Academic Partnerships at Wilmington University. “Our gaming instructors are immersed in the industry, and WilmU’s Game Design and Development program was the first undergraduate degree of its kind in Delaware. We’re committed to expanding opportunities for more high school students to connect, learn, earn credit for what they’ve learned, then explore all opportunities in the rapidly growing esports and gaming industries.”

“The agreement between WilmU and FFG leverages the capabilities of both to ensure there’s academic rigor that benefits students with and without esports and game design credentials,” said Scott Shaw, assistant professor and academic chair of WilmU’s Game Design program. “There’s so much more to it beyond programming and game design, and this agreement provides pathways to educational credit for skill-building, and opportunities to gain a wider perspective of the industry.”

“Futures First Gaming facilitates pathways for youth who have an interest in esports and STEM to realize their true potential in order to change their fortunes and change the world,” Sye said. “Our partnership with Wilmington University delivers on our promise to develop the pipeline from K-12 to university and careers in esports and related industries. Through innovative partnerships like this, our brand tagline, ‘Futures First Starts with Gaming,’ is realized.”

FFG already has a Workforce Development program, which is sponsored by the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services. This academic partnership agreement with Wilmington University aligns with the second cohort of Workforce Development students who will now have access to WilmU’s staff of expert instructors, established curriculum, development techniques, and program content for college credit. They can garner valuable STEM skills and knowledge in programming, IT, cybersecurity, gain esports-specific business expertise, and graduate with information imparted by industry professionals and seasoned university instructors.

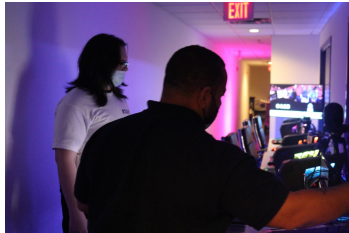
With this partnership, Delaware residents can expect to see more of FFG’s signature esports events and educational programming hosted at WilmU’s facilities across the state.

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Images attached:



FFG Cofounders (from left to right) CMO, Newdy Felton, CEO, Stephen Sye and CTO Malcolm, Coley



Stephen Sye with workforce program participant
(photos courtesy of Futures First Gaming)



Scott Shaw
Program Chair
Game Design &
Development



Prof. Scott Shaw with student
(Photos courtesy of Wilmington University)

Contacts:

Emily Zbyszynski
Program Manager
Futures First Gaming
admin@futuresfirstgaming.com
(732) 239-4840

Laurie Jensen
Director, Public Relations
Wilmington University
laurie.e.jensen@wilmu.edu
(302) 295-1164