



## NEWS FROM CITY COLLEGE

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### San Diego City College Student Earns Top Honors in Gaming/Multimedia Forman Recognized for Curriculum Development in Computer Gaming

San Diego (May 11, 2009)... San Diego City College student Oscar Plasencia is the top gun of interactive multimedia among California's 110 community colleges. At the April 2009 Media Arts Award Competition, the statewide winners in media arts for 2008 achievements were awarded \$40,000 in prizes. Plasencia won best entry in the game/multimedia category for his computer game, "Asteroid Invasion". Simulcast from Anaheim and Santa Clara, CA, John Avakian, Director of the Multimedia and Entertainment Initiative, and Jim Kiggens, Director of the Serious Game Design Institute at Santa Barbara City College, presented Plasencia with his award and prizes.

Plasencia's award-winning entry was a project he completed during the fall 2008 semester in the City College Computer and Information Sciences 220 course on Game Programming with Professor Larry Forman. Forman noted that Plasencia took the classic video game of Asteroids to a "higher level, integrating vibrant graphics, exciting sound effects, chilling game-play and complex multiplayer features". According to Forman, "With creative flair, tenacity and sophisticated programming prowess, Oscar produced a game that would make a compelling entry in the **professional** gaming community."

In 2008, the computer and video game industry topped \$22 billion in total sales; more than double that of the movie industry. To help prepare students for entry into one of the fastest growing industries in the U.S. economy, City College recently started offering a series of courses with a focus on game programming. Forman's courses in Java, C++, Principles of Information Systems, as well as in Game Programming, provide students with the tools, training and techniques to help enter an industry projected to support over 250,000 jobs this year. Notably, over 40% of the total employment opportunities are expected to occur in California, the largest employer of computer and video game personnel in the nation.

Plasencia's achievement is all the more remarkable because the fall 2008 semester was the first time City had offered the Game Programming course. In the Media Arts competition, Plasencia was vying with students from colleges across the state that had more established gaming courses and programs – yet, he came out on top. Forman attributes this to Plasencia's determined efforts and also the caliber of students attracted to the courses at City. **Professor Forman** was also awarded a certificate of recognition for his curriculum development efforts in computer game programming at City College.

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual showcase of the top talents in the media arts is sponsored by the Multimedia and Entertainment Initiative of the California Community Colleges' Economic and Workforce Development Program. The Initiative is a statewide network of Community College educators working in strategic partnerships with industry and community organizations to identify and meet California's workforce and economic development needs. The Initiative is committed to creating environments in which students can achieve artistic excellence and develop technological expertise for careers in the communications, entertainment and interactive learning industries. Designed to advance California's economic growth and global competitiveness through high quality education and services, the CCC's Economic and Workforce Development Program focuses on continuous workforce improvement, technology deployment, and business development, consistent with the current needs of the state's regional economies.

#### **About San Diego City College**

Founded in 1914, San Diego City College serves as the educational cornerstone of downtown San Diego. With more than 17,000 students, City College offers 240 Associate Degrees and Certificates and 1,500 day, evening and weekend classes, including programs in nursing and cosmetology. Home to KSDS Jazz 88.3 and the award-winning Knights, City College is part of the San Diego Community College District, comprised of City College, Mesa College, Miramar College, and Continuing Education. [www.sdcity.edu](http://www.sdcity.edu)

Multimedia and Entertainment Initiative: [www.cccmei.net](http://www.cccmei.net)

California Community Colleges' Economic and Workforce Development Program: [www.cccewd.net](http://www.cccewd.net).

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