

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Tuition-free Giant Campus of Washington Gives High School Students Insight Into High Tech Careers, Offers Full-time Enrollment**

*Washington State High School Students Can Now Earn a Diploma While Pursuing Interests in Digital Arts, Computer Science, and Business & Innovation*

**SEATTLE — May 26, 2010 —** [Giant Campus](#), the nationally recognized leader in innovative technology education programs for youth and adults, today announced the availability of full-time enrollment with [Giant Campus of Washington](#), a public and tuition-free online school program of Columbia Tech High School in the White Salmon Valley School District. Giant Campus of Washington is accredited with the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools (NAAS), and is the first online school in Washington state to offer both core curriculum and elective concentrations in digital arts, computer science, and business & innovation to Washington high school students statewide.

“The availability of full time enrollment with Giant Campus of Washington is an educational milestone for Washington state,” said Jerry Lewis, Superintendent, White Salmon Valley School District. “Never before have students been able to enroll full time in a tuition-free school that offers core curriculum and a broad selection of elective courses in digital arts, technology and business—all entirely online. Washington state students have the rare advantage of sampling 21<sup>st</sup> century careers, helping them make more informed educational and career decisions.”

Giant Campus of Washington students meet graduation requirements entirely online using their home computer. Every lesson, question-and-answer session, quiz, assignment and teacher-student interaction happens via a virtual learning environment. A variety of virtual campus activities, such as field trips, after-school clubs, student organizations and contests, help students gain strong teamwork, collaboration and problem-solving skills. Online guest speakers and a news hub help keep students up to date on various technology and business topics of interest.

Giant Campus gives students the unique opportunity to learn and practice cutting-edge technology skills required for many of today’s top occupations in game design, marketing, computer programming and more. Dohm & Shnipe recently estimated that by 2016, four out of every ten new jobs will require some advanced education or training. And the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that fifteen of the thirty fastest growing fields will require a minimum of a bachelor’s degree.

“I’ve got my eye on a future career in technology or business, and Giant Campus is helping me sample what these fields are like,” said Braden T., Giant Campus of Washington Student. “This experience will help me when it comes time to apply for colleges and look at degree programs. I’m really excited about the future.”

According to the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, less than 40 percent of students who graduate from high school go on to earn a two- or four-year college degree. Furthermore, According to the National Center for Education Statistics, as many as one third of

high school graduates that do go to college are not prepared for postsecondary education. This leads community colleges and four-year institutions to dedicate time and resources to providing students with remedial, non-credit courses.

Giant Campus' challenging curriculum promotes independent thinking, creativity and originality, advantages when applying to college and pursuing careers post-graduation. With Giant Campus of Washington, students earn more core credits than they would at a brick and mortar school, enhancing their high school experience and increasing their competitive edge when applying to colleges. Giant Campus students must earn 24 credits to graduate. This exceeds the Washington state requirement of 19 credits.

Giant Campus of Washington offers two flexible enrollment programs that help students earn their high school diploma. Students in grades 9 through 12 can sign up for classes part time. Students in grades 11 and 12 are eligible for full-time enrollment. Since opening in January 2010, hundreds of students have already enrolled in Giant Campus of Washington's popular elective courses.

Fall classes begin September 1, 2010 and follow a regular school calendar. Enrollment is open now and closes September 15, 2010. Students and parents interested in learning more about Giant Campus of Washington can go to [www.giantcampuswa.com](http://www.giantcampuswa.com).

Giant Campus' convenient, instructor-led online courses allow private, public and homeschool students in Washington state to meet graduation requirements from home. Giant Campus certificated teachers provide students with personalized instruction—all with the flexibility and convenience of online instruction. In addition to offering core English, mathematics, science and social studies courses, Giant Campus of Washington will offer the following electives in fall 2010:

#### Digital Arts

- Computer Aided Drafting (CAD)
- 3D Art I and II
- Digital Arts I and II
- Digital Photography and Graphics
- Flash Animation
- Web Design I and II
- Digital Video Production
- Audio Engineering

#### Computer Science

- Intro to C++ Programming
- Game Design 1
- Online Game Design

#### Business & Innovation

- Green Design and Technology
- Introduction to Entrepreneurship I and II
- Introduction to Marketing I and II

Giant Campus of Washington provides the collaborative learning community that students need to prepare for life beyond the classroom and for careers in the global economy. In the past year, Giant Campus' certificated teachers have provided instruction to more than 3,500 online high school students in 34 states. Giant Campus of Washington is an extension of Giant Campus'

leading national education programs, including [Giant Campus Academy](#), a tuition-based, private online school targeted to high school-aged students across the globe.

**About Giant Campus**

Giant Campus is an education and learning experience company that empowers teens and adults through in-person and online technology classes. These programs provide education on cutting-edge technology including game and Web design, digital photography, video production, computer programming, business applications, and much more. Students are encouraged to reach their full creative potential, with classes focused on building collaboration, communication and critical thinking skills. Millions of students worldwide have participated in Giant Campus programs since 1997 in a wide variety of environments, from K-12 classrooms to U.S. military installations, and at camps at prestigious academic institutions such as Duke University, MIT, Stanford University and UCLA. For more information on how Giant Campus is connecting people with technology, visit [www.giantcampus.com](http://www.giantcampus.com).

**About Columbia Tech High School of the White Salmon Valley School District**

Columbia Tech High School is an online high school offering part-time and full-time programs. The school is part of the White Salmon Valley School District, located in White Salmon, Washington, in the Columbia River Gorge, about a one-hour drive east of Portland, Oregon.

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