

# Gaming, Entertainment + eSports resource guide

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can't-miss resources  
for entrepreneurs

## Gaming, Entertainment + eSports resource guide

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Home of two highly ranked video game design graduate programs, four major theme park destinations and ranking sixth among Fortune's 10 Most Successful States for video game development, Central Florida is a growing hub for the Gaming, Entertainment + eSports industries. The Florida High Tech Corridor is committed to providing resources to and equipping industry members with tools needed to propel their ventures toward unparalleled success and catalytic growth.

Featured here are a host of companies, startups and economic development organizations purposed to be a resource to Central Florida's growing Gaming, Entertainment + eSports cluster.

Know of a resource not currently listed?

[Submit it here!](#)



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Orlando Economic Partnership

*Resources are listed in alphabetical order.*

**Gaming,  
Entertainment  
+ eSports**  
**resource guide**

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# Advanced Machine and Human Reasoning Lab

The Advanced Machine and Human Reasoning (AMHR) Lab is a multidisciplinary lab dedicated to creating smarter, better AI that promotes the advancement of human reasoning.

## **services**

- AI development
- Research collaborations

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# Central Florida Tech Grove

Tech Grove is the only innovation center specifically created to foster the development of novel, non-traditional Modeling, Simulation and Training Human Performance solutions for the U.S. Department of Defense. Acting as a bridge between innovators and national security leaders, Tech Grove enables developers to get solutions in front of potential users and collaborators.

## services

- Funding support
- Department of Defense collaboration



Central Florida Tech Grove

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## Cenfluence

Cenfluence, a partnership of the Florida High Tech Corridor and the Orange County government, is building an internationally recognized Gaming, Entertainment + eSports performance industry cluster that is globally competitive, resulting in significant contributions to Central Florida's economy.

### services

- Business support
- Research & development
- Collaboration
- Innovation
- Visibility



Cenfluence



Cenfluence



Cenfluence



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## DAVE School

The Digital Animation & Visual Effects (DAVE) School was founded in 2000 to help artists be career ready with practical animation skills. Offering three educational programs, DAVE School empowers artists and designers to grow their skills and secure dynamic positions in their industries.

### services

- VFX production
- Game production
- Virtual production



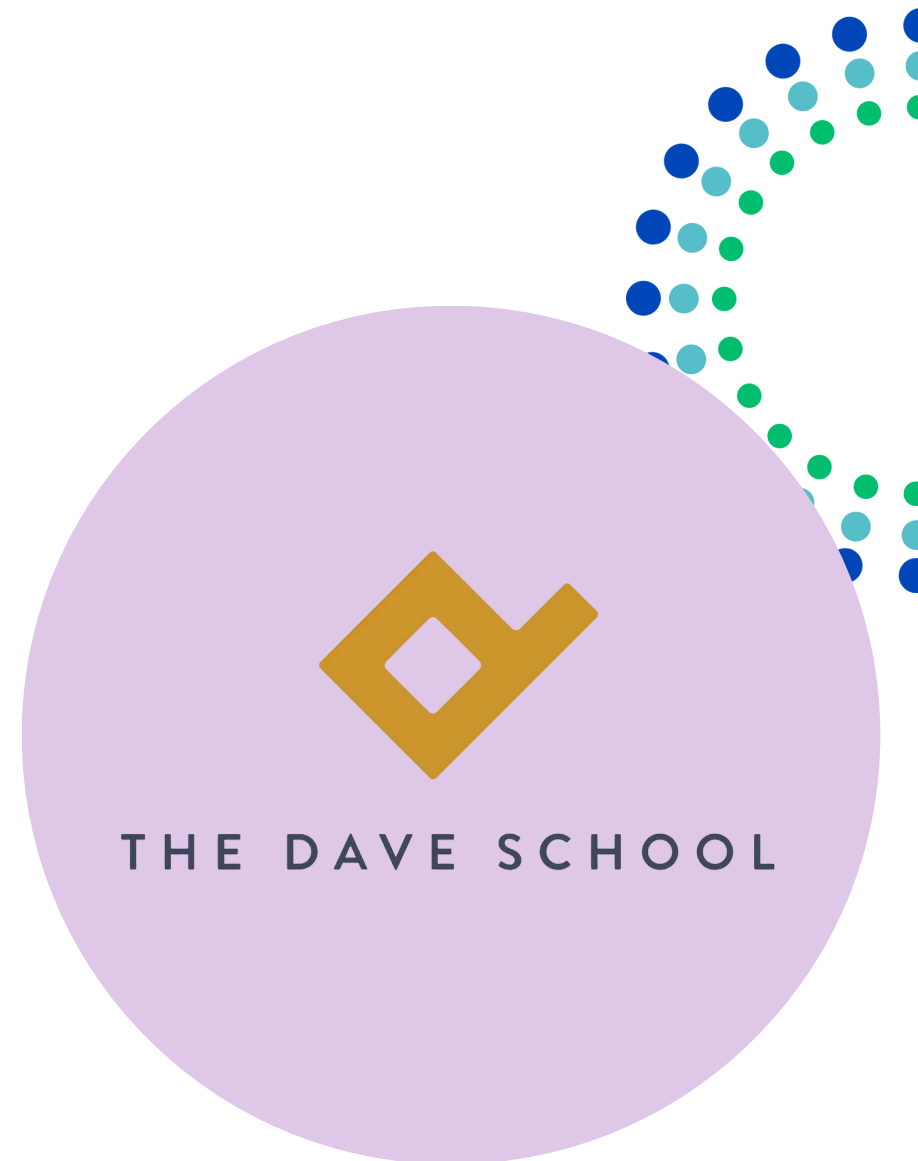
DAVE School



dave school



DAVE School



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# Full Sail University.

Full Sail University offers campus and online degree programs that are designed for the world of entertainment media and emerging technologies. Full Sail's approach is centered on real-world industry experience and creative problem solving. Full Sail also hosts the Full Sail Armada, a collegiate esports organization at "The Fortress" an 11,000 sq. ft. state of the art esports arena.

## services

- Associate degrees
- Bachelor's degrees (Game Arts, Game Business & eSports, Game Development, Simulation & Visualization)
- Master's degrees (Game Design)
- Single courses
- Course stacks



Full Sail University.



Full Sail University.



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# Florida Interactive Entertainment Academy\_(FIEA)

FIEA is UCF's Master of Science in Interactive Entertainment. This 16-month program offers students across a variety of disciplines the opportunity to hone their skills in game development. FIEA is also home to Studio 500, a 3,300 square feet motion capture stage in downtown Orlando.

## services

- Production/Design
- Modeling/Animation
- Programming
- Capstone projects in game design



[ucffiea](#)



[UCF FIEA](#)



[FIEA](#)

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## GameDev Knights

GameDev Knights (GDK) is UCF's official game development club. Open to students of all skill levels, members have exclusive access to perks, tools, showcase participation and more. In-person and online events include workshops, game jams and socials, making GDK an excellent resource for UCF students looking to expand their skillset and professional network.

### services

- Guides and tutorials
- Skill-based programming
- GDK Asset Network
- Talent pipeline

 [gamedevknights](#)

 [GameDevKnights](#)

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## IAAPA Expo

IAAPA Expo is the premier global event for the attractions industry, bringing together passionate professionals from around the world to shape the future of creating unforgettable guest experiences. Companies looking to expand their network and stay up-to-date on the latest innovations and technologies in attractions.

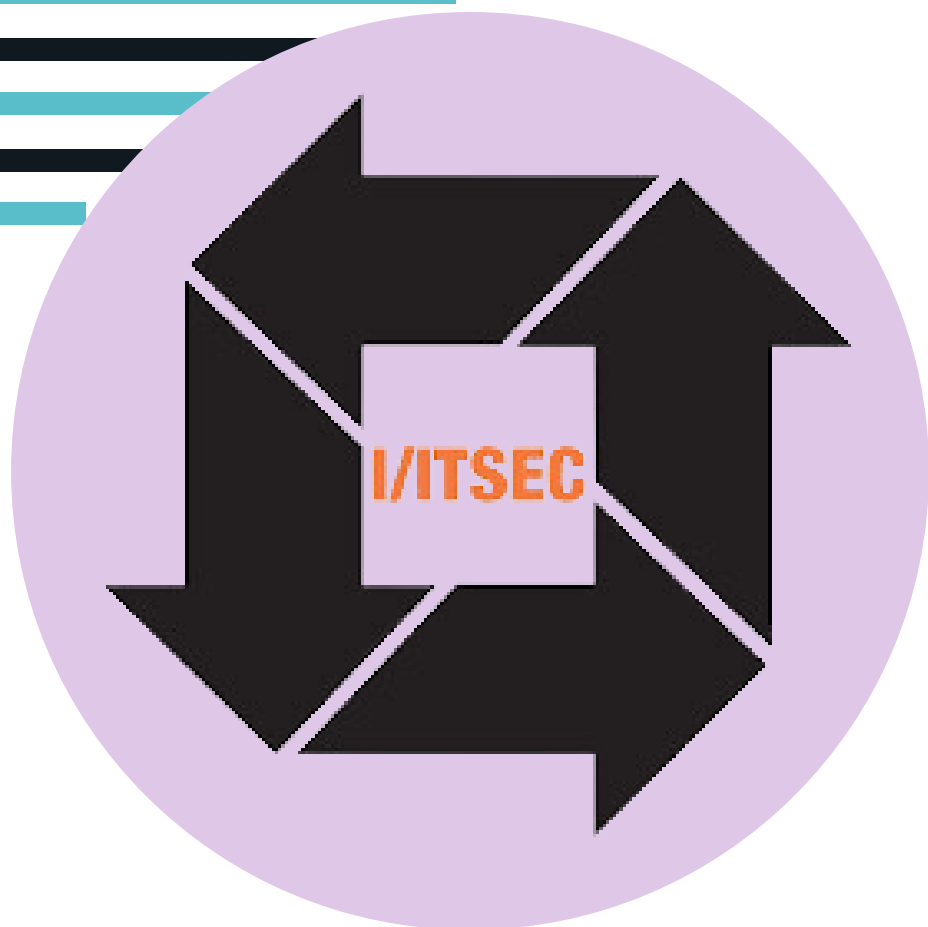
### services

- Site tours
- Educational breakout sessions
- Technology trade show floor
- Networking opportunities



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## I/ITSEC

The Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference (I/ITSEC) is the world's largest modeling, simulation and training event. The conference is sponsored by the National Training & Simulation Association (NTSA) and seeks to promote international and interdisciplinary collaboration between these growing fields.

## services

- Keynotes from industry leaders
- Special events
- Tutorials
- Professional development workshops
- Networking with industry leaders in immersive technology, modeling, simulation & training



IITSEC



iitsec



iitsec

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## Indienomicon Foundation

Indienomicon Foundation hosts indie “game jams,” collaborative game development events where a variety of creators work together for 48 hours to prototype a new indie game. Participants meet other game designers, connect with subject-matter experts and catalyze their skills.

### services

- Subject-matter expertise
- Development support
- Networking opportunities



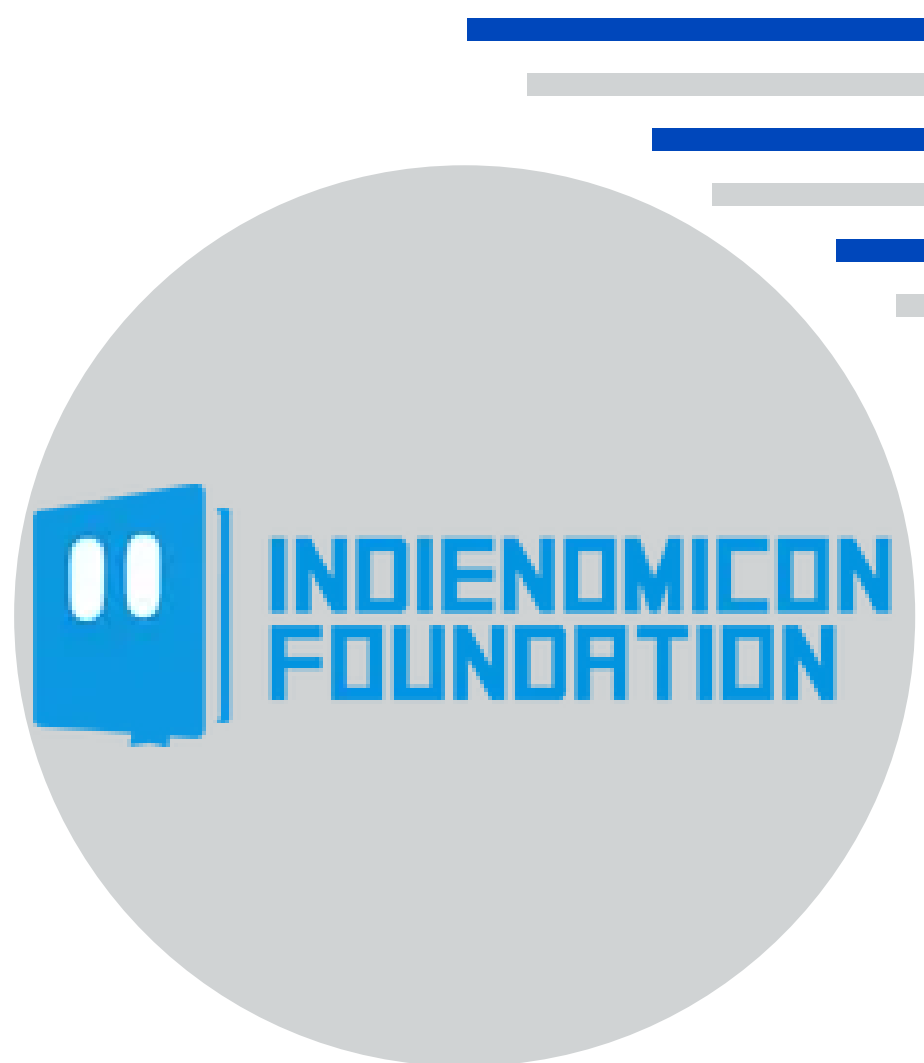
[indienomicon](#)



[indienomicon](#)



[indienomicon](#)



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# Melrose Center

The Melrose Center, a program of the Orange County Public Library, expands the role of the library to provide informal learning and technology education. The Center's wide variety of resources promote innovation and drive creativity throughout Central Florida.

## services

- Simulation lab
- Video, photography and audio production studio
- Tech Central meeting space



**Melrose Center**



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## The MetaCenter

An effort of the Orlando Economic Partnership, the MetaCenter provides support and collaborative opportunities to new and existing high-tech industries in Orlando, focusing on artificial intelligence, VR and AR, gaming and simulation.

### services

- Metaverse builder
- Economic development



The MetaCenter



The MetaCenter

A large teal circle containing the word "METACENTER" in purple, with a thin purple circle around the "A". To its right is a green circle with a white spiral pattern.

METACENTER

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## OMG Labs

Located in Orlando, OMG Labs is a co-working space created to meet the needs of entrepreneurs and innovators throughout Central Florida. With equipment and space purposed for game design and industry collaboration, OMG Labs provides tech and media developers an ideal environment to create frontier technology.

### services

- Co-working space
- Networking opportunities
- Educational programming
- Events



[omglabsgroup](#)



[OMGLabs](#)



[OMGLabsGroup](#)





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# Orlando Economic Partnership - Gaming & Esports

Orlando Economic Partnership (OEP) connects industry leaders with various opportunities including site selection and economic development expertise. Supporting a network of professionals, OEP provides collaborative opportunities to industry professionals, positioning Orlando as a top location for this growing field.

## services

- Business support
- Creative Village
- Industry experts

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## Synapse Summit

Founded in 2018, Synapse is a Florida based nonprofit bringing together industry leaders, startup entrepreneurs, investors and other resources to support innovation throughout Florida. Every year, Synapse hosts Synapse Summit, an event connecting individuals across the tech and startup community with keynote addresses, workshops and specialized programs.

### services

- Networking opportunities
- Keynotes from industry leaders
- Workshops and breakout sessions

 [Synapse Florida](#)

 [Synapse Florida](#)

 [SynapseFL](#)



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## UCF Digital Arts and Entertainment

With the nation's No. 1 graduate game design program and the No. 14 undergraduate game design program, UCF's game design programs prepare students for work well before they leave the classroom – teaching the most advanced game-design skills and providing the knowledge looked for by top employers.

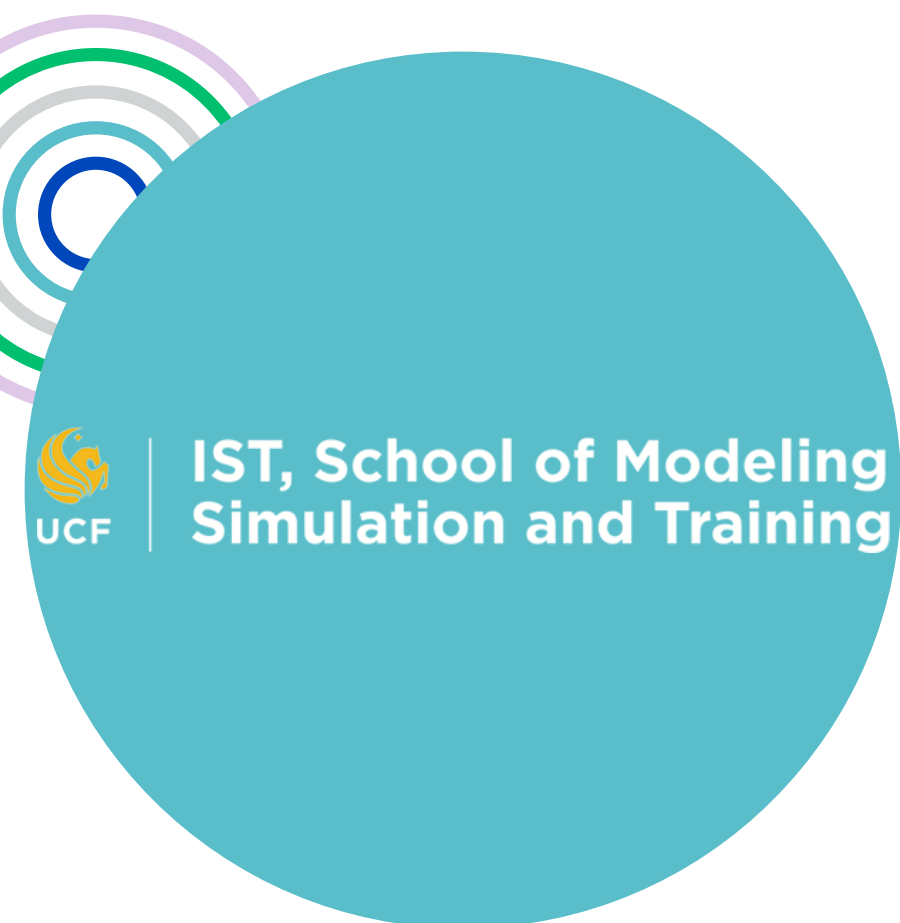
### services

- Bachelor's degrees (Digital Media)
- Graduate degrees (Digital Media)
- Online degrees



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# UCF Institute of Simulation and Training, School of Modeling, Simulation and Training

UCF Institute of Simulation and Training (IST), School of Modeling, Simulation and Training (SMST) is a major lab at UCF that connects industry and academia around immersive tech, training and simulation.

## services

- Research and labs
- Collaborative opportunities



SMST UCF



UCF SMST



SMST UCF

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# VR/AR Association – Orlando Chapter

The VR/AR Association promotes the development of advanced virtual and augmented reality technology.

Those interested in joining can visit

[www.thevrara.com/membership-details](http://www.thevrara.com/membership-details) and email [info@thevrara.com](mailto:info@thevrara.com) with any questions.

## services

- Online networking opportunities
- Immerse Global Summit
- Research opportunities
- Sponsorships and investor opportunities
- Industry committees
- Webinars
- Local and global events
- Equipment rentals



[VR/AR Association](#)



[vrarassociation](#)



[thevrara](#)



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## Vū Studios

Vu Studio is an 8,000 square foot LED studio in Orlando, offering advanced production capabilities with state of the art technology to creators and innovators.

### services

- Expert advice and solutions
- Co-working space



[vu.network](#)



[Vū](#)



[Vu Technologies](#)





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## Not sure where to start?

### Connect with **Jack Henkel**.

Jack is a senior cluster manager for The Corridor's Cenfluence program, offering 15 years' experience helping companies grow. He connects Cluster Members in the Gaming, Entertainment + eSports and Learning Sciences + Human Performance industries to regional resources that accelerate their growth. Jack is also an expert on Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) funding opportunities, and has helped businesses secure millions of dollars in non-dilutive funding.



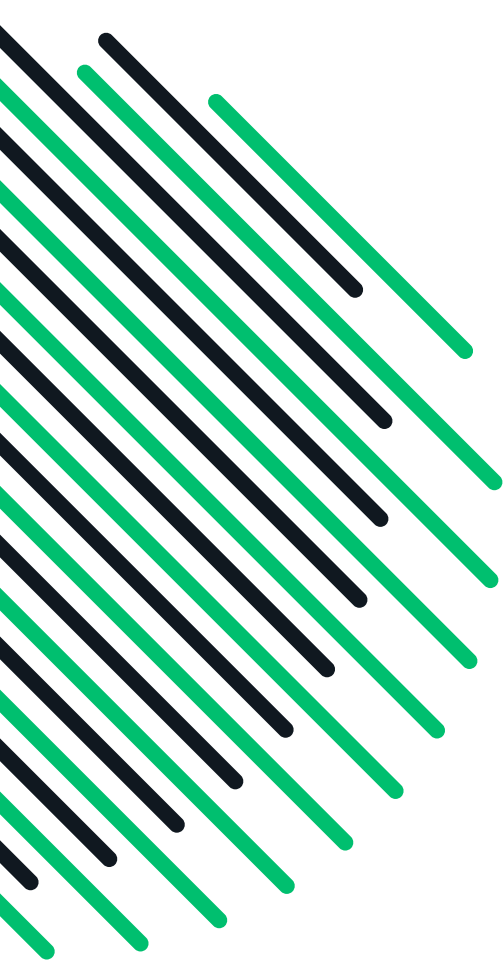
**[jackhenkel](#)**



**[jack.henkel@floridahightech.com](mailto:jack.henkel@floridahightech.com)**



**Our region is one of the largest sources of video game development talent in the country, which means there's an incredible opportunity to grow the number of businesses creating and serving the gaming, entertainment and immersive technology industries. We find the best ways to support that talent and those businesses, so they start and grow here.**



**Learn more**  
**FloridaHighTech.com**

