

## **Academic Utilization of Proposed TimeGate Building**

### **UH-Sugar Land Campus**

**Overview:** TimeGate Studios, Incorporated, is seeking to construct an approximately 60,000 square foot building on the UH-Sugar Land Campus. The proposed building would house their motion-capture studio facility and staff associated with developing interactive games. TimeGate would occupy 14,000 square feet in the proposed building for both academic and business purposes with the balance devoted solely to academic use. Wharton County Junior College, University of Houston, and University of Houston-Victoria would move academic programs that align with the needs of the digital gaming industry into the building under a lease agreement.

**Proposed Academic Use by UHS:** The proposed TimeGate building at the UH-Sugar Land Campus would directly support the educational objectives of UHS. At present, UHV students are working in internship positions at TimeGate's current location on the Southwest Freeway. Opportunities for student internships, from both UHV and UH, would expand and be enhanced with the relocation of the motion-capture studio to the Campus. The additional space would provide opportunities to accommodate the following activities:

- **BS, Computer Science---Digital Gaming and Simulation (UHV)**

This program allows students to develop the skills required to obtain entry level jobs in the rapidly growing digital gaming industry. In addition to enhancing students' technical skills, the program also provides a cultural perspective on the history, philosophy, ethics and sociology of digital games and game playing. Coursework in the program covers topics such as artificial intelligence and behavioral modeling, game engines, gaming network architecture, game programming, interactive narrative development, and project management. Students participating in this program have an opportunity to compete for positions as interns with TimeGate Corporation.

- **BS, Digital Media (UH)**

This program prepares technologically competent leaders for positions in the digital media industry. Students in the program will gain competencies in various graphic-related technologies that support the digitization of graphic and text content as well as preparing graduates for leadership and supervisory roles in organizations. Graduates of the program find employment in businesses specializing in communication through

print, internet, multimedia and video technologies. Coursework in the program covers topics related to photography/videography, computer graphics, web design, print media, and basic leadership/supervisory skills. Digital Media, part of the Graphic Communication cluster of industries, is a dynamic field and among the largest employment sectors in the country. Given the synergy with current and emerging digital gaming programs at Sugar Land, it is proposed to fully transition this program from UH to UH-Sugar Land pending the availability of appropriate facilities. Although only in its third year, the program currently has over 150 majors with another 50 students pursuing the digital media minor.

- **PB/Graduate Certificate in Game Development**

The Certificate in Game Development consists of four courses that align with critical needs of digital gaming companies. They include two courses in game development/programming and two courses in game arts and animation. Students in this program have gained national and international recognition and have dominated the Microsoft Imagine Cup over the last three years. In close collaboration with TimeGate, the UH Department of Computer Science is working with other academic colleges to develop a unique, world-class master's degree in interactive game development that will provide coursework in not only programming and animation, but also in sound/audio design, graphic arts, writing/scripting for digital games, and project management.

**University/Community/Industry Partnership:** The TimeGate project is indicative of how the UH System, the Sugar Land community and one of its corporations are forming partnerships to develop the UH-Sugar Land Campus – aligning academic programs to meet community/industry needs, with community support playing a significant role in funding these ventures. In this respect it is similar to the recently completed campus library, which was developed in partnership with Fort Bend County. Given that state resources for higher education are extremely limited, partnerships such as these are critical for program and facilities development at Sugar Land.