## The 21st Century Science Fair

Nationwide Game Design Curriculum Culminates in Cutting Edge Competition

**New York, NY -** Each year, students from some of the nation's most underserved schools compete to win prizes in the *Globey Awards*, the culminating activity in a year-long, nationwide game design curriculum and social learning network called *Globaloria*. This unique and groundbreaking approach to STEM education is enabling communities to step beyond the traditional science fair gamut of posters and homemade volcanos to encourage student learning of big ideas in science, math, engineering, history, civics and more.

Two thousand students—and their teachers—in a national network of sixty schools and community centers in California, Florida, New York, Texas and West Virginia are collaboratively developing digital literacy, STEM knowledge and global citizenship skills through Globaloria. After dedicating hundreds of hours over the course of the school year, each team of students has the opportunity to submit their original game for consideration by the *Globey* <u>judges</u> in regional competitions. Reflecting the rigorous nature of the program, judges consider the technical quality of students' games, their educational content, the quality of the original artwork and animations, teamwork, research skills and the overall production process.

Each of the winning games is published to and playable on the Globaloria website, enabling visitors and aspiring game designers to engage with, learn from and be inspired by students' original programming and design work. Every student who participates in Globaloria becomes a producer of original multimedia content—and benefits from the resulting boost in critical competencies and self-confidence needed to thrive in today's global digital economy.

Last year's *Globey* winners included:

- <u>The Adventures of Henry the Hedgehog</u> Created by high school students in Randolph County, West Virginia. Players control the main character's travels through different countries and eras to learn about government and civic responsibilities.
- <u>House Fixers 2</u> Developed by 6<sup>th</sup> graders in East Austin, Texas. Players are challenged to reduce fractions correctly before time runs out and an animated house collapses.
- <u>Elemental Elegance</u> Created by high school students in Harrison County, West Virginia. Players study basic facts about chemical elements and then see how the elements react to one another in a virtual lab with a hand-drawn mad scientist.

Globey award ceremonies will take place throughout the country in May, June, July and August. The program is an initiative of the World Wide Workshop, a nonprofit organization supported by the Knight Foundation, Google, the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, the AMD Foundation, state and county departments of education, the Entertainment Software Association, Adobe, Konami Digital Entertainment, the Silicon Valley Education Foundation, Electronic Arts (EA), and a number of other partners. Thanks to AMD Foundation, Adobe, Konami Digital Entertainment, BrainPOP and EA, winners across the country will receive copies of record-breaking games, AMD laptops, Flash software and subscriptions to BrainPOP.

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**World Wide Workshop** (www.WorldWideWorkshop.org) is a nonprofit organization that invents social media and digital technology applications to help youth and educators participate as leaders in the global

knowledge economy. Globaloria is the first and largest social learning network for developing digital literacy, STEM knowledge and global citizenship skills through game design. Launched in 2006, the results-proven Globaloria is at work today in middle- and high-school classrooms and community centers in five states: California, Florida, New York, Texas and West Virginia. To learn more about how Globaloria classrooms nationwide are participating in the 2012 Globeys, visit http://www.worldwideworkshop.org/programs/globaloria/competitions.

## Media Advisory: 2012 Globey Award Ceremonies

The events below are open to the press and members of the community. To attend, arrange an interview or for more information, please contact Amber Oliver (<a href="mailto:amber@worldwideworkshop.org">amber@worldwideworkshop.org</a> or **646-895-9167**).

**May 17, 2012** East Austin College Prep (EAPrep) Awards Ceremony *East Austin, Texas* 

**May 17, 2012** Hillsborough County Public Schools Awards Ceremony *Hillsborough County, Florida* 

**June 5, 2012** San Jose/Silicon Valley Awards Ceremony *San Jose, California* 

**Late June 2012** Announcement of West Virginia Globey Winners *Various locales, West Virginia* 

**July & August 2012** Prize distributions to West Virginia Globey Winners *Various locales, West Virginia*