

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUPPORT OF THE QUESTAR *III*
STEM RESEARCH INSTITUTE PROJECT WITH THE GOAL OF ENHANCED
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE BURGEONING GAME
DEVELOPMENT CLUSTER IN THE COUNTY AND REGION**

WHEREAS, Rensselaer County and the surrounding region have become nationally known as a center for the development of gaming programs; and

WHEREAS, the demand for gaming programs continues to show great growth, with a concomitant growth in the demand for a workforce well trained in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math and the specific skill sets germane to gaming development; and

WHEREAS, a recent report by the Center for Economic Growth identified the availability of STEM talent as one of the gaming industry's top needs, if the gaming cluster is to continue to thrive and grow in the region; and

WHEREAS, QUESTAR *III*, through its STEM Research Institute, has partnered with Vicarious Visions, the region's largest video game developer, and area secondary school STEM educators, to collaborate in the development of an interdisciplinary gaming course to be offered to secondary school students in Rensselaer County; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid collaboration will require participating teachers to spend seven weeks of the summer working with the STEM professionals at Vicarious Visions to develop secondary school courses which will align with the skill sets needed by the gaming industry; and

WHEREAS, participating teachers will be required to attend future professional development conferences to present to other STEM teachers the lesson plans and courses they develop through the STEM Research Institute project, sharing best practices that can be replicated or modified in schools around the region; and

WHEREAS, the Rensselaer County Industrial Development Agency (the Agency) recognizes video game development as a growing industry in Rensselaer County and is supportive of the efforts of QUESTAR *III* to help meet the workforce needs of that industry; and

WHEREAS, the Agency recognizes that the availability of a workforce well-trained in necessary skill sets is a prerequisite to the growth of any industry; and the presence of such a workforce is necessary in order to attract and retain commercial and industrial enterprises; and

WHEREAS, the Agency believes that the QUESTAR *III* STEM Research Institute's video gaming curriculum development project will ultimately result in a pool of workers well-trained in the skills needed by the gaming industry; and

WHEREAS, the encouragement and support of workforce development efforts is well within the goal and mission of this Agency to attract and retain Rensselaer County employers, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Agency does agree to financially support the QUESTAR *III* STEM Research Institute's curriculum development effort by contributing the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars toward the stipend for three secondary school teachers participating in the project.

Resolution ADOPTED by the following vote:

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

January 9, 2020


STATE OF NEW YORK)
) SS.:
COUNTY OF RENSSELAER)

I, the undersigned (Assistant) Secretary of Rensselaer County Industrial Development Agency (the "Agency"), DO HEREBY CERTIFY that I have compared the foregoing annexed extract of the minutes of the meeting of the members of the Agency, including the Resolution contained therein, held on January 9, 2020 with the original thereof on file in my office, and that the same is a true and correct copy of said original and of such Resolution contained therein and of the whole of said original so far as the same relates to the subject matters therein referred to.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that (A) all members of the Agency had due notice of said meeting; (B) said meeting was in all respects duly held; (C) pursuant to Article 7 of the Public Officers Law (the "Open Meetings Law"), said meeting was open to the general public, and due notice of the time and place of said meeting was duly given in accordance with such Open Meetings Law; and (D) there was a quorum of the members of the Agency present throughout said meeting.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that, as of the date hereof, the attached Resolution is in full force and effect and has not been amended, repealed or rescinded.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Agency this 9th day of January, 2020.



(Assistant) Secretary

(SEAL)

QUESTAR III
PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST
December 13, 2019

Mr. John Clinton
Chairman, Rensselaer County Industrial Development Agency Board
County Office Building
1600 7th Avenue
Troy, NY 12180

Dear Mr. Clinton,

On behalf of Questar III BOCES, I am submitting this request for the Rensselaer County Industrial Development Agency's (IDA) consideration to once again support an initiative assisting three county-based school districts to develop video game design courses in collaboration with Vicarious Visions.

As you'll recall, this past summer six educators from the East Greenbush, Schodack and Averill Park school districts spent seven weeks working with staff from gaming developer Vicarious Visions to learn about the gaming industry and collaborate to develop interdisciplinary courses that align with the skill needs that the industry seeks.

This opportunity, developed through the Questar III's STEM Research Institute, will educate students about how various content areas including math, English, graphic design and computer science have applications to this industry. Additionally, it will help students develop the talents and abilities to pursue future workforce opportunities in support of the growing cluster of video game developers in both Rensselaer County and the Capital Region.

Teachers who participate in this program are required to work eight hours a day, five days a week for seven weeks during the summer; this is not a shadowing experience, rather teachers are paid employees. As a result, they receive a \$10,000 stipend for their work creating this coursework.

With this in mind, Questar III is requesting the Rensselaer County IDA allocate \$30,000 to fund three teacher stipends. The NYS Digital Gaming Hub (through RPI) has tentatively committed to fund the three remaining teachers, replicating their support from last summer as well.

Please let me know if there is any additional information you may need for the Board to consider this request.

I would like to thank you and your colleagues for your past support and for considering this request- this opportunity is a great example of how a public-private partnership can both support innovative education as well as the future workforce development pipeline.

Sincerely



Jane King