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UNITED STATES SENATOR JAY ROCKEFELLER TO SERVE AS HONORARY CHAIR OF THE 1ST ANNUAL STEM GAMES COMPETITION FOR GLOBALORIA STUDENTS

Charleston, W.Va. – The World Wide Workshop Foundation, inventors of Globaloria, in collaboration with the West Virginia Department of Education and U.S. Senator Jay Rockefeller as Honorary Chair, announced West Virginia’s 1st Annual Globaloria Games Competition on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (www.MySTEMgames.org). Senator Jay Rockefeller will serve as the Honorary Chair of the competition, which showcases a powerful model for broadband learning in West Virginia.

Globaloria is a unique pilot course in 22 West Virginia middle schools, high schools, community colleges and universities where students are creating original web-games about educational topics and using an online social network for learning. Globaloria public school students whose games teach STEM concepts are invited to enter this exciting competition that will be judged by a panel of STEM practitioners, policymakers, and game design experts.

All students who enter the competition will receive a letter of commendation from Senator Rockefeller and the Globaloria WV Board which includes the Governor and First Lady, and the state superintendent of schools. The team that submits the best overall game will win a special grand prize that includes a laptop for each team member, and their game will be featured on several websites nationwide.

“This competition is an exciting opportunity for students to combine what they're learning about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in the classroom with hands-on web-game development,” said Senator Rockefeller. “The students working on this project and learning STEM skills will be the engineers, scientists, and biomedical researchers of the future - helping West Virginia lead in many areas of technology research and development. I have worked for years to ensure that our public schools have the hardware and connectivity they need to engage students with innovative broadband applications like Globaloria. I'm so proud of our West Virginia students and I am very excited about being honorary chair of this competition.”

Rockefeller has been a longtime supporter of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education in West Virginia schools. In the 2002 reauthorization of the National Science Foundation, Rockefeller led the effort in the Senate to create the Noyce Scholarship program – aimed at getting science, math, and engineering majors to teach at the elementary or secondary level in exchange for scholarships in their junior and senior years of college.

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“We are deeply honored that Senator Rockefeller will serve as the Honorary Chairman of our First Annual STEM Games Competition in West Virginia,” said Dr. Idit Harel Caperton the Founder and President of the World Wide Workshop, an education entrepreneur and a graduate of MIT Media Lab and Harvard Graduate School of Education, who invented the Globaloria learning system not only to train teachers and transform schools but also to feed the workforce pipeline with STEM-savvy youth. “In his letter to Globaloria students today Senator Rockefeller expressed his appreciation for their willingness to work hard as game-making pioneers and digital STEM leaders of their generation.”

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The **World Wide Workshop** (www.WorldWideWorkshop.org) develops open-source applications of social media technology and game production to enhance scientific thinking, contemporary learning, innovation, entrepreneurship, and global understanding in rural and urban low-income and technologically-underserved communities worldwide. The Workshop’s mission is to enable every student and educator to learn with technology using a 1-to-1 computing approach and customized online learning and teaching materials. Globaloria research indicates an increase in student mastery of state content standards and 21st-century skills by immersing students in a learning-by-doing gaming curriculum that incorporates the latest technology and programming tools. It has been hailed by local, state, and national education leaders as a model for innovative educational transformation and STEM workforce development. Support for Globaloria is provided by WV Governor and First Lady Manchin, the WV Department of Education, the WV Center for Professional Development, Benedum Foundation, Verizon WV, Knight Foundation, and the Caperton Fund. Research partners and advisors include learning scientists from West Virginia University, Marshall University, Edvantia, Michigan State University, MIT Media Lab, and the Harvard Graduate of School of Education.

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