

National Defense University
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**Fourth Annual Federal Consortium for Virtual Worlds Conference
To be held at National Defense University**

(Washington, DC) Connect with people using 3D immersive technology; collaborate around the world via your avatar; solve problems and share best practices; telework and save money. These are several of the virtual world discussions planned for the Federal Consortium for Virtual Worlds (FCVW) conference held on May 12-13, 2011 (with pre-conference workshops on May 11), at the National Defense University (NDU iCollege), Lincoln Hall Auditorium, located at Fort Lesley J. McNair in Washington, D.C., and also streamed via the Web through six different virtual worlds.

This year's conference is virtual-technology packed, featuring several leading experts who will share their dynamic virtual worlds experiences on how this expanding medium works within government, academia, industry and even entertainment! Workshops, panel discussions, government project poster sessions, vendors, and an evening reception are planned for the event.

Keynote Speakers include:

David A. Smith, a computer scientist and entrepreneur who invented "The Colony", the first 3D interactive game; a virtual set and virtual camera system for movie director James Cameron for the "Abyss" film.

Frank C. Digiovanni, a member of the Senior Executive Service and serves as the Director, Training Readiness and Strategy, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Readiness) at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Mr. Digiovanni provides oversight on the Live, Virtual and Constructive Training Standards and the development of virtual world training.

Dr. Chris Dede, the Timothy E. Wirth Professor in Learning Technologies at Harvard's Graduate School of Education. Dr. Dede offers expertise in information technology for immersive learning across space, time, and multiple interactive media.

Mk Haley, a Faculty and Associate Executive Producer at the Entertainment Technology Center of Carnegie Mellon University. Ms. Haley's expertise in virtual worlds, design, and digital media has helped Walt Disney Research and Development and Walt Disney Imagineering on projects.

In addition to the distinguished keynote speakers, the conference is packed with talented experts from government, industry and academia who will provide workshops, posters sessions, and demonstrations. You won't want to miss this event!

Comments from NDU iCollege leaders:

Dr. Paulette Robinson, Associate Dean for Teaching, Learning and Technology and the organizer of the FCVW comments, “We had our first FCVW meeting in 2007. Four government agencies participated. In 2010, 450 organizations participated and over 3,000 people (virtual and physical attendees) represented a variety of economic sectors. Our membership is growing – with more than 2,200 members. This year we anticipate even more!”

Dr. Robert Childs, Chancellor of NDU iCollege, will kick-off the event via his avatar. He had this to say about the upcoming virtual worlds’ conference, “The future of government and business relies more and more on the ability to communicate without limitations. The power of the Internet, virtual worlds and social media will drive communications to new heights.”

Registration for the FCVW is now open. To participate either in person or online, visit <http://www.ndu.edu/icollege/fcvw/>. If you have questions about the conference, please send an email to FCVW mail box at: FederalConsortium/VW@ndu.edu.

About the College - The NDU iCollege, a U.S. Department of Defense educational institution, prepares leaders to direct the information component of national power by leveraging information and information technology for strategic advantage. Although most students come from DoD (military and civilians), the school also accepts Federal Agency, private sector, and international students into its graduate programs.

Education is focused around CIO, CFO, Information Assurance/Cyber, Enterprise Architecture, IT Project Management, and other information leadership competencies. The NDU iCollege also has been awarded degree granting authority from the U.S. Department of Education for its new Government Information Leader (GIL) Masters of Science Degree. Students are already active in the program and new applications will be accepted soon. Courses are completed on campus and/or online. For more information about the NDU iCollege’s programs, please contact: Jolly Sienda at jolly.sienda.ctr@ndu.edu; or for general information about the college, visit: www.ndu.edu/icollege.

About the National Defense University is the nation’s premier center for joint professional military education. The university is an accredited graduate-level institution that provides an educational and research environment to prepare future leaders of the armed forces and other civilian agencies for high-level policy, command, and staff responsibilities. For more information about the National Defense University, please contact: Dave Thomas, Public Affairs Officer, at 202-685-3140 or ThomasD2@ndu.edu; or visit www.ndu.edu.

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