

The esports industry is thriving in the Capital district education system



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Deesha Mohan

Local school districts and colleges in the Capital Region are advancing their educational programs with the rise of esports. [The esports industry has emerged as a billion-dollar industry and has attracted a large and diverse audience.](#) School administrators are introducing esports into educational programs to teach students valuable critical thinking, leadership, communication, and professional skills.

Both national and international organizations are on board with esports educational programs and have already implemented and developed their programs within the last few years. [Esports programs across the states have been successful in gaining funding, establishing partnerships, and recruiting high school teams.](#)

The Capital Region is reaping benefits from the esports industry as well. Local esports startup, Gaming Insomniacs, opened its doors last fall at the Urban Co Works building in downtown Schenectady. Gaming Insomniacs is one of the first esports organization to hit the regions market. Most of their work aligns in branding teams and hosting events but they are big advocates for esports education. The gaming organization is offering internships, scholarships, and college classes related to esports for the local community.

They have collaborated with the College of Saint Rose, the University at Albany, Fulton Montgomery Community College, Schenectady Community College, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, as well as local businesses like the Recovery Grill and Proctors theatre. They are still expanding their educational and business network.

Gaming Insomniacs has already established an internship and scholarship program. Students can apply to internship positions in media, communications, writing, art, public relations, management, marketing, and programing. This allows college students to explore different aspects of the industry while learning critical skills in a fresh and innovative way.

The scholarship program is for students at the middle school, high school, and college level. Students can play in league teams and earn money to pay for tuition, books, and supplies.

[Gaming Insomniacs first high school tournament will be held at Proctors theatre and students from approved school districts are eligible to win a \\$5000 scholarship.](#)

They have also partnered with the P-TECH program in Fulton County. Their initiative is to provide P-TECH students a gaming environment to work on game development and coding projects. Recently, Gaming Insomniacs came to support P-TECH students at Johnstown High

school. The students created their own games for staff to play. The team at Gaming Insomniacs were excited to see the students interested in game development and programming.

The gaming organization hopes to work with other regional school districts and colleges to facilitate student learning associated with esports and game programming. The esports industry is opening doors for all career aspects and students can benefit from local programs.