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VIDEO GAME INDUSTRY CONVENES AT ANNUAL D.I.C.E. SUMMIT AND AWARDS SHOW

More than 25 Industry Luminaries – J.J. Abrams, Gabe Newell, David Cage and More -- Discuss the Future of Interactive Entertainment and Celebrate Achievements of Past Year

LAS VEGAS, NEV. – Feb. 5, 2013 – The 2013 D.I.C.E. (Design, Innovate, Communicate, Entertain) Summit kicks off today, marking the 12th anniversary of the video game industry's most prestigious and exclusive event. The annual event, produced by the Academy of Interactive Arts and Sciences (AIAS) and Penske Media Corporation (PMC), draws some of the brightest and most influential interactive entertainment industry leaders and seeks to foster meaningful interaction and engagement among attendees in a collegial atmosphere. The summit continues through Feb. 8 at its new home, the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Las Vegas.

The 2013 D.I.C.E. Summit will also host the 16th Annual D.I.C.E. Awards ceremony on Thursday, Feb. 7. The peer-driven awards are a celebration of the best in interactive entertainment and represent the highest honors bestowed upon the interactive entertainment industry. Produced by AIAS and PMC/Variety, the Awards show will be streamed live on www.MachinimaLive.com at 7 p.m. PST / 10 p.m. EST. Self-proclaimed nerd and video game enthusiast Chris Hardwick, founder of Nerdist.com and host of his own Comedy Central stand-up special, AMC's *Talking Dead*, and newly announced BBC America's *The Nerdist*, will serve as this year's host.

The four-day conference includes 20 speaking and panel sessions covering industry trends that are pushing the boundaries of technology, creativity and artistic expression, and opening discussion on key challenges affecting developers, publishers and business leaders alike in 2013. Highlights from the keynotes and sessions will be available at <http://youtube.com/entv>; full sessions will be available on <http://youtube.com/variety>. This year's program includes:

J.J. Abrams, writer, director and producer, and opening keynote headliner
Gabe Newell, president and co-founder of Valve Corporation, 2013 AIAS Hall of Fame inductee, and opening keynote headliner
Dan Connors, CEO and co-founder of Telltale Games
Glen Schofield, co-founder and studio head of Sledgehammer Games
David Cage, CEO of Quantic Dream
Randy Pitchford, co-founder, owner and president of Gearbox Software
Phil Larsen, CMO of Halfbrick Games
David Edery, CEO of Spry Fox
Julian Farrior, CEO of Backflip Studios
Amir Rao, studio director for Supergiant Games
Xavier Poix, managing director of Ubisoft France
Jenova Chen, creative director and co-founder of thatgamecompany
Jesse Schell, CEO of Shell Games and distinguished professor of the Practice of Entertainment Technology at Carnegie Mellon University
Victor Kislyi, CEO and founder of Wargaming.net
Dr. Ray Muzyka, CEO and Founder of Threshold Impact
Feergus Urquhart, CEO of Obsidian Entertainment
Kiki Wolfkill, Executive Producer at Microsoft Game Studios/343 Industries

Frank O'Connor, Franchise Development Director at Microsoft Game Studios/343 Industries
Warren Spector, veteran electronic game designer/producer
Julie Uhrman, founder and CEO of OUYA
Mark Stern, President Original Content at Syfy
Nick Beliaeff, vice president of production at Trion Worlds, Inc.
Matt Lee Johnston, video game designer and producer
Raj Talluri, senior vice president of product management of Qualcomm CDMA Technologies, Inc.
David Ting, general manager of eSports at IGN Pro League (IPL)

The Thursday opening keynote session by Gabe Newell titled “A View on Next Steps” will be live streamed on Feb. 7 beginning at 9:30 a.m. PST at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PeYxKIDGh8I>.

“The D.I.C.E. Summit annually honors interactive entertainment culture and achievement in our rapidly changing global theater, while welcoming the leaders in our industry to openly share, collaborate and grow the art and business of our industry,” said Martin Rae, president, Academy of Interactive Arts and Sciences. “The summit themes pay homage to the pillars for which this conference was founded - Design, Innovate, Communicate and Entertain - and this year’s line-up of industry luminaries will tackle the topics shaping the future of interactive entertainment, including mobile development, transmedia storytelling, emerging technologies, and multiplatform development.”

Summit Highlights:

- **Hall of Fame Inductee:** Living video game legend, Gabe Newell, president and co-founder of Valve Corporation, will be the 17th inductee into the AIAS Hall of Fame. Recipients demonstrate the highest level of creativity and innovation, resulting in significant product influence on a scale that expands the scope of the industry. The AIAS Hall of Fame honor is annually bestowed on game creators who have been instrumental in the development of highly influential games and moving a particular genre forward, and Gabe’s leadership in founding and managing Valve, creator of Source™ game engine, Steam, and award-winning game franchises like *Half-Life*®, *Counter Strike*™, *Left 4 Dead*™, *Portal*™, and *Team Fortress*™ have done much to push the interactive entertainment industry forward.
- **Pioneer Award Recipient:** Infocom co-founders Dave Lebling and Marc Blank will be honored with the 2013 AIAS Pioneer Award, which is reserved for individuals whose career-spanning work has helped shape and define the interactive entertainment industry with the creation of a technological approach or the birth of a new genre. As innovators, storytellers, game designers and programmers, Lebling and Blank have inspired a generation of gamers and game designers over a broad spectrum of games and genres with their contributions to interactive fiction and text-based adventure games such as the *Zork* and *Enchanter* series.
- Martin Rae, president, Academy of Interactive Arts & Sciences, will be giving the opening remarks right before the D.I.C.E. Summit opening keynote, “Storytelling Across Platforms: Who Benefits Most, the Audience or the Player” featuring veteran writer, director and producer J.J. Abrams (*Star Trek*, *Person of Interest*, *Revolution*) and Valve President and Co-Founder Gabe Newell (Steam, *Half-Life*, *Portal*, *Counter-Strike*, and more) on Wednesday, Feb. 6, from 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
- The 16th Annual D.I.C.E. Awards at The Joint, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Las Vegas. Showcasing the breadth and depth of an incredible year of gaming, 63 games representing console to web-based to mobile, are nominated for D.I.C.E. Awards, led by *Journey* with 11 nominations, including Game of the Year. The complete list of Awards categories, finalists, and game maker credits is available at: <http://www.interactive.org/images/awards/16th-Annual-D.I.C.E.-Finalists-For-Web.pdf>.

- In addition to the conference sessions and multiple networking opportunities throughout each day, the D.I.C.E. Awards, the AIAS will host several exclusive, annual activities during the Summit:
 - The Academy Foundation Golf Tournament, sponsored by Behavior, will be held at noon on Tuesday, Feb. 5 at TPC Las Vegas Golf Club.
 - The D.I.C.E. Go-Karting Tournament, powered by Nexon America, will take place at the Pole Position Raceway in Las Vegas, Nevada, on the afternoon of Tuesday, Feb. 5.
 - The D.I.C.E. Red Rock Canyon Run/Hike will provide relief from the hustle and bustle of the Las Vegas Strip mid-afternoon on Tuesday, Feb. 5.
 - The D.I.C.E. Summit poker tournament sponsored by Intel will be held in the heart of the vibrant Hard Rock Hotel casino floor the evening of Tuesday, Feb. 5.
 - The D.I.C.E. Summit Welcome Party, sponsored by Turtle Beach, will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 6 at Vinyl Nightclub at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Las Vegas.
 - The 16th Annual D.I.C.E. Awards After Party, hosted by Wargaming, will take place at Vanity, the upscale nightclub at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Las Vegas.

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