

## Capitol Hill Event Honoring Video Game Innovation Fellows

**Education** 2015-10-19 16:15:35

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Today, the Entertainment Software Association (ESA) and the Hispanic Heritage Foundation (HHF) selected 20 minority youth (ages 15-25) as ESA LOFT (Leaders on the Fast Track) Video Game Innovation Fellows. The Fellows were chosen for the original video games and apps they developed to address social issues in their communities and will be flown in to Washington, D.C., to present their ideas to the White House, U.S. Congress, and national community leaders on **Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

“Through this creative partnership with the ESA, we are engaging youth on their terms through video games and apps to make a positive social impact,” said Jose Antonio Tijerino, president and CEO of HHF. “We believe there is a link from playing a video game to developing a game to computer coding, cybersecurity and other workforce skills gap areas America is desperately trying to fill. It is also important minority youth are encouraged to be content creators, not just consumers.”

The agenda for the 2015 LOFT Video Game Innovation fellows includes:

### Thursday, October 22, 2015

- 9:00 α.μ. Φελλοωσ ωιδεο γαμε ανδ αππ πρεσεντατιον ατ Τηε Ραβεν Γρουπ– 5τη Φλοορ, 1341 Γ Στ ΝΩ (οπεν το πρεσσ)
- 11:00 α.μ. Χονγρεσσιοναλ Βριεφινγ ον Χαπιτολ ζισιτορσ Χεντερ, Ροομ ΗςΧ–215 (οπεν το πρεσσ, χρεδεντιαλσ ρεθυιρεδ)
- 3:00 π.μ. Ωηιτε Ηουσε Βριεφινγ (χλοσεδ το πρεσσ)

“The ESA LOFT Video Game Innovation Fellowship underscores the fact that games are a valuable tool for positive change in our society,” said Rich Taylor, Senior Vice President of Communications and Industry Affairs at the ESA. “We are proud to offer an opportunity that will help foster and promote creative thinking and innovation in minority communities, and cultivate future innovators of our industry, through the unique platform only video games can provide.”

To see the Fellows' games, visit [www.LOFTInnovation.org](http://www.LOFTInnovation.org). To follow the activities on social media, follow **#LOFTFellows**.

### ***About the Entertainment Software Association***

The ESA offers services to interactive entertainment software publishers, including conducting business and consumer research, providing legal and policy analysis and advocacy on First Amendment, intellectual property and technology/e-commerce issues, managing a global anti-piracy program, owning and operating E3, and representing video game industry interests in federal and state government relations. For more information, please visit [www.theESA.com](http://www.theESA.com) or follow us on Twitter at @RichatESA or @ESAGovAffairs.

### ***About the Latinos on the Fast Track Program***

LOFT is HHF's award-winning, leadership, and workforce development program focused on America's priority fields including STEM, entrepreneurship, education, and innovation. Tens of thousands of students and young professionals are connected to each other; prepared through trainings, priority-field-tailored symposia, workshops, and Charlas; and hundreds are placed into internships, mentorships, fellowships and full-time positions with Fortune 500 companies and government agencies. Join and follow LOFT on Twitter - @LOFTInstitute and Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/hhfloft/>. Visit [www.HispanicHeritage.org](http://www.HispanicHeritage.org) for info on HHF.

## 2015 ESA VIDEO GAME INNOVATION FELLOWS

Christopher Carbajal

Male, 20

Burbank, CA 94558

[DollarDreams: App Store for Non-Profits](#)

Alyssa Edmund

Female, 17

Astoria, NY 11105

Your Personal Friend: Online Support System

William Emanuel

Male, 17

Napa, CA 94558

[Neighborhood Water Watch: Water Conservation](#)

Andrew Gayle

Male, 15

Mirmar, FL 33025

[The Trash Eliminator: World Pollution](#)

Naomi Hareid

Female, 18

Marana, AZ 85653

Surgery: Strategic Moves \_

Jacky Jimenez

Female, 15

Astoria, NY 11102

Finding Your Future: College and Job Opportunities \_

Gerardo Leon

Male, 17

Houston, TX 77036

Learn Realm: Study and Test Preparation \_

Omar Lopez

Male, 23

Oxnard, CA 93030

[Project Echoes: Choices and Consequences](#)

Nicodemus Madehdou

Male, 19

Philadelphia, PA 19136

[Turbo Finger Swipe: Early Childhood Education](#)

Giselle Martinez

Female, 17

Santa Cruz, CA 95062

[Reflexio: Increase Productivity](#)

Ashley Miller

Female, 21

Chicago, IL 60625

[Phantom Limb: Sexual Assault](#)

Ana Nico-Silva

Female, 19

Watsonville, CA 95076

Youth Empowerment Institute: Food Justice Quiz

Aleida Olvera

Female, 17

Brownsville, TX 78526

[SmartGuard: An Emergency Alert System](#)

Margot Richaud

Female, 17

Long Island City, NY 11106

[Space Cleaners: Space Debris Awareness](#)

Nicholas Romero

Male, 21

Chapel Hill, NC 02048

[HightStep: Healthier Lifestyle](#)

Juan Torres

Male, 16

San Francisco, CA 94110

[Uncover Police Brutality: Police Brutality](#)

Alisha Ukani

Female, 17

Weston, MA 02493

[Proton: Addressing Self-Esteem](#)

Noelle Vela

Female, 21

Lubbock, TX 79415

[Raza: Increasing Hispanic Political Engagement](#)

Jabari Voss

Male, 16

New York, NY 11221

The Real Politician: Understanding Fundamentals of Politics

Jenny Xu

Female, 16

Cambridge, MD

Hungry Trash Protecting the Environment