Media Advisory

USING GAMING TO BUILD EMPLOYMENT SKILLS

Brantford (JUNE 21, 2017) – Local community organizations and groups, as well as members of the public, are invited to attend the June 23 launch of SUSPECT - a table-top game that supports and builds problem solving skills for employees.

SUSPECT was created by the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie, with help from Laurier Brantford's undergraduate Game Design and Development program, after local employers emphasized they look for people with strong soft skills when they hire. In some cases, employers were vocal about the need to build soft skills such as problem solving, communication and team work.

"SUSPECT is a tool that can be used across our community to support skills building in a fun way," said Jill Halyk, Executive Director of the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie.

"Players work in teams to solve a workplace crime which is the part of game play we all know. However, when this game is complete, players get to discuss their problem-solving approaches and identify skills that may need some work. The next time they play, they can work on that skill."

SUSPECT was developed using the concept of Gamification, which involves engaging people to learn new things by using gaming elements, such as moving up levels, earning rewards, overcoming obstacles, and team play.

SUSPECT was developed over the course of a year, with assistance from two students from Laurier Brantford's Game Design program. The game has been tested and is now being used by Employment Ontario and other agencies that help jobseekers.

DETAILS ABOUT SUSPECT LAUNCH
When: Friday, June 23, 2017
Time: 10:00 am to 11:30 am
Location: BGN Lab at Laurier Brantford, Grand River Hall, Main Floor, 171 Colborne Street, Brantford.
What will take place: Attendees will hear from Workforce Planning Board staff and Laurier Brantford students and staff about the process to develop the game. Attendees will then have a chance to play the board game with the help of facilitators.

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For more information, contact Charlene Hofbauer, Workforce Planning Board, 519-756-1116, x228, or email charlene@workforceplanningboard.org.