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## NEWS RELEASE

### **Sisler High School hosts Vancouver Film School coding workshops Grade 4 to 9 students get hands on learning experience**

**April 25, 2016 (Winnipeg, MB)** – Vancouver Film School (VFS) and Sisler High School announce a new addition to their special partnership—the VFS-Sisler Pathway. This agreement now enables one Sisler graduate to obtain a 50 percent tuition reduction *Horizon Scholarship* towards VFS' world-class one-year, applied entertainment and media arts production programs.

The agreement also promotes cross-institutional collaboration to enhance learning experiences at Sisler including access to VFS instructors, professionals, and other resources. The partnership acknowledges the success and innovative curriculum that Sisler has established in the departments of Visual & Performing Arts and Interactive Digital Media. Sisler High School and VFS will be delivering educational workshops on coding and game programming from April 26 to 28. A component of this educational outreach will be in the form of an intensive game programming workshop to grades ten through grade twelve students and a series of hands-on coding workshops for students in grade four through nine at Sisler High School.

In addition to the 50 percent tuition reduction *Horizon Scholarship* of up to \$19,000, another \$4000 dollars is available to successful Sisler students through the agreement's *Merit-Based Scholarship Program*. VFS has also created two *Excellence in Media Scholarships* of \$3000 for Sisler's top two digital media students, who will be selected by Sisler's staff each year. VFS and Sisler are pleased that this agreement makes it possible to encourage and reward the talent that Sisler's Digital Media Program is cultivating—students who are an excellent fit for study in VFS's educational model. This year, at least six of Sisler's top performing students will be moving on to VFS: Gerard Jacinto, Ritvick Mehra, Arshdeep Sidhu, Kenneth Pangan, Mark Toledo and Aeron Tan are applying to receive scholarships towards their tuition in VFS' Game Design, Film Production, Concept Art and Animation programs. Former Sisler students, Daniel Cochon and Moises Lucero, start at VFS in May of 2016.

"Sisler's partnership with VFS gave me the chance to chase after my dreams. I have had a passion to become a film maker since middle school, and thanks to this partnership I have a chance to fulfill my dream," says Cochon.

Including Daniel and Moises, VFS scholarships to Sisler students could range up to \$42,000 in 2015-16. In addition to providing support to Manitoba students, VFS recently provided an all expenses paid professional development series in their industry leading facility to three educators from Northern Manitoba and Winnipeg.

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“Sisler’s students have displayed an excellence in digital media production which sets a high bar for secondary institutions in Canada. Their continued enthusiasm, maturity, and professionalism sets them apart. An education at VFS will propel these talented young individuals to the next level,” says VFS Director of Educational Administration, Ted Gervan.

“Sisler is proud to partner with VFS and to provide a mechanism to promote innovation and access to the cutting-edge education VFS is known for. We think the benefits are enormous for our students and for the youth of Manitoba.” says Jamie Leduc, Sisler’s Department Head of Business Ed, Information Technology and Interactive Digital Media.

Ken Reimer, Principal of Luxton School: "We greatly appreciate Sisler High School generously inviting elementary students from Luxton School to participate in a number of technology-based workshops and events. Nearly 100 of our Grade 4, 5, and 6 students have already benefited from the expertise and insights of experts from industry, and have learned so much from Sisler staff and students. These learning experiences have inspired a whole new generation of children."

This high school—post-secondary partnership further strengthens the aim of incubating the talent of North America’s entertainment arts industries and the creative economies in BC and Manitoba.

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