

# ICAPP® | The Economic Development Program of the University System of Georgia



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## New Graduate Certificate Program Prepares Georgians for Computer Modeling and Simulation Jobs

*ICAPP project at Columbus State serves expanded Fort Benning mission*



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New programs at Columbus State will help meet a rapid increase in demand for employees with computer-modeling skills. The growing demand arises from Fort Benning's expanded mission—especially the new Maneuver Center of Excellence, and the relocation of the Armor School (which trains armor and cavalry soldiers in contemporary combat tactics involving computer modeling and simulation) from Fort Knox, Ky., to Fort Benning in 2011. The U.S. Army projects that it will continue to increase its reliance on simulators, simulations, models and games in all aspects of training, as well as during combat.

Fort Benning's expansion also brings defense contractors to locate and expand near the fort. One large defense contractor is building a modeling and simulation research center as part of its relocation to the Columbus area.

Building on this growth, leaders in Columbus are working to develop a burgeoning computer modeling and simulation industry, which includes other Georgia industries that increasingly use computer modeling and simulation, such as life sciences, aerospace and logistics. Columbus State's new graduate level modeling and simulation certificate program is a critical part of this economic development effort.

Five students have started **Columbus State's new graduate Certificate in Computer Modeling and Simulation**, and another 20 to 30 students are expected to start the certificate by 2011. Students can also use the credit earned through the certificate toward a new program concentration in the Master of Science in Applied Computer Science. The online certificate program includes five new graduate-level courses developed with ICAPP funding. The long-range plan is to expand this program into a stand-alone Master of Science degree.

Columbus State has submitted another proposal for ICAPP funding to further develop and deliver the computer modeling and simulation program. The ICAPP project was approved in early 2009, and waits for available funds.

### *By 2011, at Fort Benning:*

- *4,712 more military personnel*
- *1,889 more civilian employees*
- *4,802 more employees at nearby defense contractors*

*Source: U.S. Army*

*About 200 students (including 120 from local high schools) attended GEMS (Games, Education, Modeling and Simulation Symposium) on October 8 at Columbus State, held each year to encourage local high school and college students to pursue careers in computer gaming, modeling and simulation. After presentations from industry experts, the day ended with a computer game competition.*



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