

SHOW NEWS

Explore Immersive Venues on Tech Tours

By Dan Daley

Collegiate esports gaming is taking a big step out of the dorm room. Full Sail University, a media-arts college in Winter Park, Fla., is opening The Fortress, an 11,200-square-foot competitive gaming arena. The \$6 million venue has seating for up to 500 spectators who can watch Armada, Full Sail's first-ever sports team, compete against other schools' teams in professional and collegiate gaming leagues.

The Fortress is also one of the venues that attendees of InfoComm 2019 in Orlando, Fla., can tour during this year's show.

"What sets this apart from both the esports venues being built on campuses and commercial esports arenas is that The Fortress is designed to accommodate spectators and to act as an educational classroom facility," says Bennett Newsome, Full Sail's Esports Strategist. "We designed it so that there's not a bad seat in the house, but it's also a complete classroom environment, where we can teach the skills of gaming and of the audio, video, lighting and control around it."

Fans in the stands follow the action on the main Absen 36-by-11.5-foot LED video-wall, the largest of several videowall displays. There's also a circular LED display, 24 feet in circumference and arrayed in a halo above the competition dais. And guaranteed, the walls will be shaking at times, thanks to two concert-grade L-Acoustics sound systems.

"We worked hard to also make the space accessible to educators and easy for them to use," says Vince Lepore, Director of Event Technical Operations at Full Sail. There is a "keynote" mode in the venue's Crestron room-control system that lets educators push



The Fortress competitive gaming arena at Full Sail University

presentations and media to the LED wall wirelessly via Crestron AirMedia and access four wireless mic channels automixed through a QSC Q-SYS core.

"What is always foremost is having top-of-the-line equipment and technology in The Fortress and our other venues, so that students are always learning not only on the best equipment, but on the same systems and platform they'll be using when they graduate," Lepore says.

The InfoComm 2019 Tech Tour of The Fortress is Tues., June 11. Other Tech Tours still available include the Orlando Science Center, Thurs., June 13, and the University of Central Florida, Tues., June 11, and Wed., June 12.

Tech Tours at InfoComm 2019 are sponsored by Peerless-AV and Williams AV. Learn more and register at infocommshow.org.



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