

# Solving the Issues of Open Enrollment Game Programs

**Scott Shaw**, Wilmington University  
**Mike Geig**, Stark State College

# Challenge: Open Enrollment

- Large variation of learning levels
- Large non-traditional student base
- Varied socio-economical backgrounds
- No on campus living

# Challenge: “I Can’t Do It”

- First of their family to go to college
- Self defeat is easier than being defeated
- Desire for an education yet fear of not obtaining it
- Fear is masked with humor or indifference

# Solution: Open Enrollment / Mind Set

- Promote unofficial “packs”
- Encouragement of fellow students
- Fear of failure versus fear of being left behind



# Solution: Open Enrollment / Mind Set

- Emphasis on group work, open communication, and study groups
- Extra credit offered to kick start the process
- Student success center with our students as tutors



# Challenge: Job Placement

- Stark State College
  - 2 year degree
  - Area without many tech inlets
  - Stigmas of open enrollment schools



# Challenge: Job Placement

- Wilmington University
  - 4 year degree
  - Lots of tech – but mostly IT / Computer & Network Security (Cyber)
  - Viewed as a 4 year community college



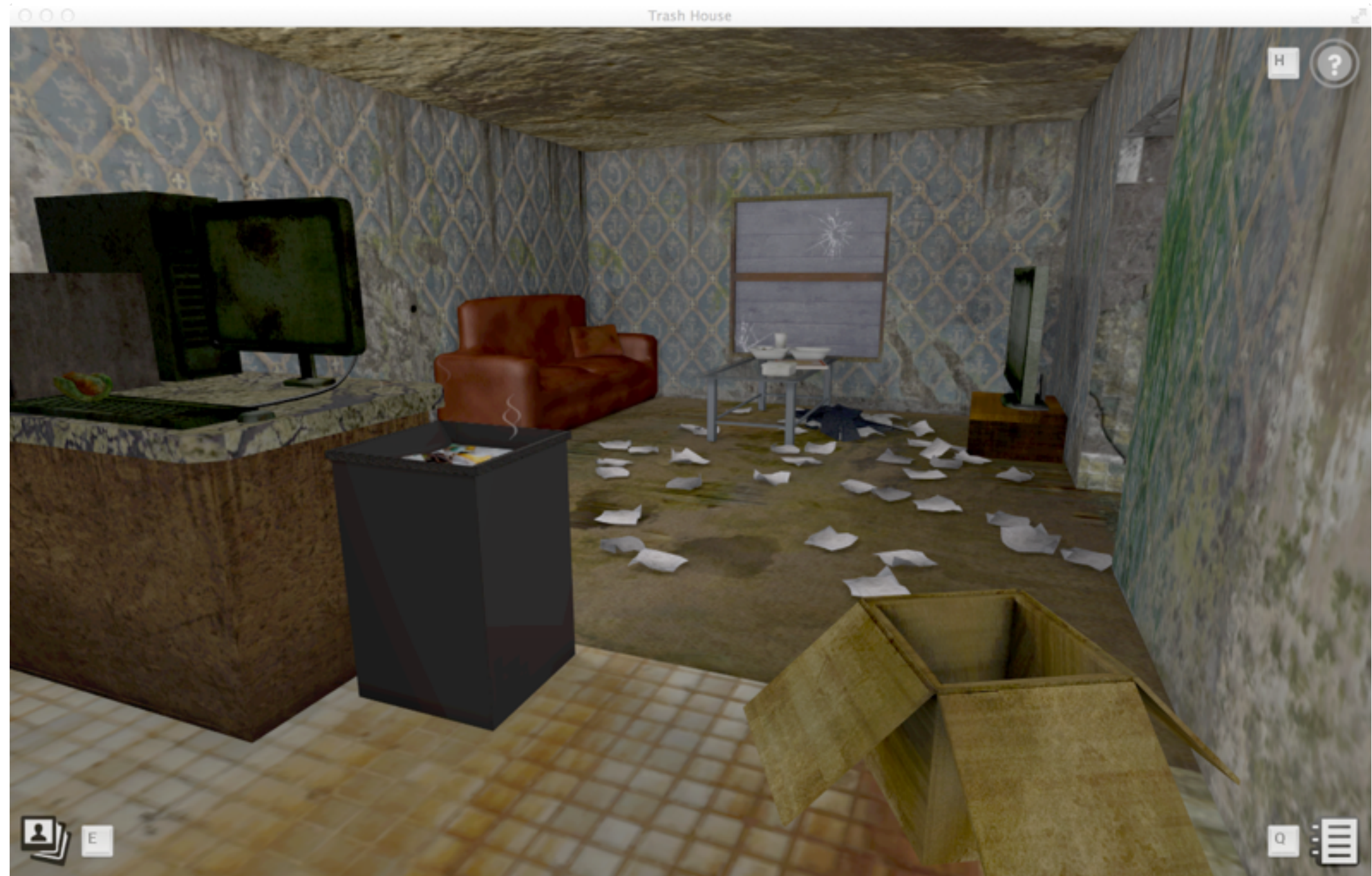
# Solution

- Focus is always on portfolios
- Prove student capability
- Build practical students capable of a workforce - Example: Trash House
- Bully! / Exalt



# Child Advocacy Certificate

Face to face course has a “trashed house that the university owns, for this class, they must do a “walk-thru” and make an assessment of the home based on a case study



# Challenge: Transition

- Providing a smooth transition from a 2-year to 4-year school can be difficult
- Students want their credits to transfer wherever they go
- Clear pathways can be hard to establish

# Solution

- Work with colleges and professionals to build advisory committees that steer curriculum
- Offer specialized tracks that line up with specific schools

# Solution

- Visit schools and meet with faculty
- Assist in the structuring of new school curriculum
- Serve the student

# Challenge: 2nd Chance Students

- Many students are coming back to school after a long break
- With lives, families, and jobs, school can take a back seat
- Getting the students to just attend class can be tricky



# Solution

- Multiple course offering types
- Game clubs with meetings every week
- LAN events and Game Jams
- Constant engagement
- Instructors are “trained” to be available



# Challenge: Lacking in “Street Cred”

- Not seen as “capable” by students, industry, and other institutions
- Belief that the faculty are people who failed at industry
- More than 7 degrees of separation from Kevin Bacon

# Solution

- Work with industry folks when designing curriculum
- Work closely with companies to promote students
- Work with students to develop products for companies
- Make our own “Bacon”

# Summary

- Open Enrollment  
+ Student support services
- Student's attitude  
+ Team up active/passionate students with those with poor attitudes
- Job Placement  
+ Cap / Co-op, Portfolio based resumes

# Summary

- Transitioning 2 year to 4 year students  
+ contact with the feeder schools
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Students  
+ Student support + All of the above
- Having “Street Cred”  
+ have students make good work



# Other tips, maybe obvious ones...

- Cultivate motivated students early
- Ensure the clubs can continue
- Delegate events to motivated students
- Watch out for burn out
- Have mechanisms for student support
- Use Work-Study, Directed Study, and Internship options to build students resumes and keep community going.

# Contact Us



Mike Geig

Stark State College

[mikegeig@gmail.com](mailto:mikegeig@gmail.com)



Scott Shaw

Wilmington University

[scott.r.shaw@wilmu.edu](mailto:scott.r.shaw@wilmu.edu)