

Stockton Professor Wins Grant to Develop Video Game on Smallpox Vaccine's History

National Endowment for the Humanities Award is First of Its Kind

For Immediate Release; with photo of Lisa Rosner

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Galloway Township, NJ - Dr. Lisa Rosner, Distinguished Professor of History at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, was recently awarded a \$99,837 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to develop a video game about the early history of smallpox vaccination.

Dr. Rosner is working with colleagues from the College of Physicians of Philadelphia and with Eduweb, a developer of digital learning games, to create the educational video game, The Pox Hunter, as part of the project, "A 3D Strategy Game for the History of Medicine." This is the first time that a Digital Projects for the Public grant has been awarded by the NEH, Dr. Rosner noted.

Dr. Rosner, who also directs Stockton's Honors Program, said her research focuses on the history of vaccines and anti-vaccination movements.

"The goal of the grant is to create a prototype of The Pox Hunter that can be introduced at the Game Night held at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia during the Philadelphia Science Festival in April 2016," Dr. Rosner explained. "I think it is a really exciting moment for Stockton and I'm really proud to be part of it."

In the game designed for upper-level high school and college students, players step into the shoes of a young physician who has arrived in 1802 Philadelphia, just as a smallpox epidemic erupts. Armed only with Edward Jenner's new vaccination technique and a will to succeed personally and professionally, players undertake the grand challenge of stopping the disease by persuading patients to be vaccinated.

Dr. Rosner said developing the game involves a lot of research about the social history of Philadelphia, as well as the architecture and fashions of the time period. # # #