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**Subject:** ESPORTS Program Added

**Date:** Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 4:01:19 PM Central Daylight Time



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April 6, 2023

Dear Hornet Nation,

Our newly added competitive esports program benefits both student competitors and fans with skills they can use on campus and after graduation.

Esports, short for electronic sports, is a form of competitive video gaming where players and teams compete against each other in online tournaments or leagues. Emporia State joins the 255 member schools with over 5,000 student-athletes participating in varsity programs who belong to the National Association of Collegiate Esports.

Currently, ESU is fielding varsity teams for the games Overwatch and Valorant. Students not only have the chance to play for the teams as student athletes, but also coach, manage and promote them on social media. Each of these teams is completely student led, allowing participants to gain skills in teamwork, communication, management and more. Students can also earn scholarship dollars toward their educational goals.

Investments from the City of Emporia and ESU Foundation allow us to invest in a state-of-the-art gaming arena. Teams are able to practice in the space and compete on high-grade computers and peripherals. Students who are not competing on the varsity team can also use the space for casual play and to host events. The area is also available as a high-tech computer lab for projects that demand more computer power.

Watch for updates as ESU's varsity esports teams are already competing against other collegiate teams, both regionally and nationally.

**Additional Resources:**

- Video from Nathan Goodwin, ESU coordinator for esports and e-ventures: [https://youtu.be/\\_i4iX4Ot5FY](https://youtu.be/_i4iX4Ot5FY)

- News release about ESU esports: <https://www.emporia.edu/news/april-2023-esports-program-launches/>
- Website about all of the announced reinvestments: [emporia.edu/future](https://www.emporia.edu/future)
- Website for ESU's esports: [emporia.edu/esports](https://www.emporia.edu/esports)

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