



**The Iwamoto North America  
Foundation for Go**

July 8, 2016

**The National Go Center**

The Iwamoto North American Foundation for Go today announced plans to establish the National Go Center in Washington, DC. An ancient strategy game with a rich history in Asian countries and promoted in the US by the American Go Association, Go recently garnered global headlines when Google DeepMind's AlphaGo AI program defeated top professional Lee Sedol.

In addition to its role in advancing artificial intelligence, many studies have shown that Go can improve student performance through development of logical and spatial thinking and even to help students with ADHD. A primary mission of the new Center is to work with educators in the region to promote Go in schools from primary grades through college.

The Center will also have the mission of developing strong amateur Go players in the region who can represent the US in conjunction with the AGA at the regional, national, and international stages. Building on an already strong tournament calendar, regional and interscholastic qualifying tournaments are planned.

Organizers of the National Go Center include many AGA volunteers and leaders from the metro Washington region, where there is a long history of promoting Go education, developing cultural activities associated with the game, and training strong Go players in many of the regional clubs. It is expected that the new Center will add to the synergy to make the DC area a true national center for Go.