



USDLA Awards Boston University with the Silver Best Practices Award for Distance Learning Programming in 2010

Boston University was recently honored by the United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) with the world's most prestigious distance learning award presented for excellence in distance learning.

St. Louis, MO—May 2010: The United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) presented its 2010 International Distance Learning Awards to **Boston University** in conjunction with the 2010 National Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. USDLA is a 501(c) 3 non-profit association, founded in 1987, as the nation's leading distance learning organization. The association reaches 20,000 people globally with sponsors and members operating in and influencing 46% of the \$913 billion dollar U.S. education and training market.

These prestigious International Awards are presented annually to organizations and individuals engaged in the development and delivery of distance learning programs. Included in the recognition ceremony were awards for 21st Century Best Practice, Best Practice for Distance Learning Programming, Excellence in Distance Learning Teaching, Outstanding Leadership by an Individual, Hall of Fame and Eagle Awards.

"As a premier organization for the entire distance learning profession, we are honoring **Boston University** as a leader in the industry," said Dr. John G. Flores, CEO of USDLA. "**Boston University** has raised the bar of excellence and we are truly honored by the **University's** contributions to the distance learning industry."

Boston University was honored with a Silver Award in Best Practices for Distance Learning Programming, for the online Master of Science in Health Communication

(MSHC) program, which is offered in collaboration with the University's College of Communication.

"This award acknowledges the caliber of online programs offered by Boston University's office of Distance Education, as well as the creativity, commitment, and expertise brought to the program by the faculty involved," stated Dr. Domenic Screnci, co-director of the MSHC.

"Health Communication competencies are quickly becoming core to the evolving national healthcare landscape," continued Dr. Screnci. "As the first online program in the field, the MS in Health Communication brings an educational opportunity to working professionals who may not have access otherwise."

The USDLA Awards were created to acknowledge major accomplishments in distance learning and to highlight those distance learning instructors, programs, and professionals who have achieved and demonstrated extraordinary results through the use of online, videoconferencing, satellite and blended learning delivery technologies.

"Congratulations to **Boston University** and every one of this year's award winners. USDLA takes great pride and responsibility in recognizing excellence and quality that benefit the entire industry. Through distance learning, education, and training we can provide access to the world's best award winning opportunities for school children, connect higher education students globally and transform the lives and careers of working adults. We are truly on the edge of something great and these winners clearly demonstrate and confirm the transformative powers of distance learning globally," said Reggie Smith III, President of USDLA.

"We are honored to receive this recognition," acknowledged Dr. Jay Halfond, Dean of Boston University's Metropolitan College & Extended Education, which administers the University's distance learning programs. "Our faculty and staff commit a substantial amount of time and talent in creating high-quality online courses. We have the reputation of a great university to protect and extend, and believe that programs like the MSHC

reflect well on BU and provide degrees every bit as credible and valuable as those on campus.”

Boston University Associate Professor of Public Relations Stephen Quigley, co-coordinator of the online MS in Health Communication, agreed. “This award confirms that we've accomplished our overriding goal from day one: Create a graduate health communication program that is every bit as rigorous, challenging, and engaging as the very best graduate programs we offer on campus.”

Julie Young, Chair of USDLA Board of Directors and President/CEO of Florida Virtual School (FLVS), noted that, “Once again this year’s award winners represent many of the most innovative leaders in the field of distance learning.” She continued, “I also look forward to seeing **Boston University** again during our 2010 USDLA Public Policy Forum in Washington, D.C., September 22, 2010 and/or during National Distance Learning Week (<http://www.ndlw.org>), November 8-12, 2010.”

About Boston University

Founded in 1839, Boston University is internationally recognized as a top institution of higher learning and research. The University's 17 schools and colleges offer more than 250 undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and special degree programs, along with the resources of 23 libraries and over 104 academic centers and institutes. With more than 30,000 students from all 50 states and 135 countries, Boston University is the fourth-largest independent university in the United States.

The Distance Education office is Boston University's single point of development, coordination, and implementation of online learning programs. In collaboration with faculty from schools and colleges throughout the University, Distance Education translates the quality of University classroom programs to online formats through a commitment to instructional quality, effective program delivery, and state-of-the-art production methods. For information about online programs at Boston University, visit www.bu.edu/online.

About United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA)

The United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) is a non-profit association formed in 1987 and is located in Boston, Massachusetts. The association reaches 20,000 people globally with sponsors and members operating in and influencing 46% of the \$913 billion dollar U.S. education and training market. USDLA promotes the development and application of distance learning for education and training and serves the needs of the distance learning community by providing advocacy, information, networking and opportunity. Distance learning and training constituencies served include pre-k-12 education, higher and continuing education, home schooling as well as business, corporate, military, government and telehealth markets. The USDLA trademarked logo is the recognized worldwide symbol of dedicated professionals committed to the distance learning industry. <http://www.usdla.org>

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