

Boston University receives the USDLA Award for 21st Century Best Practice, 2011

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 2011: In conjunction with its 2011 National Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, the United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) presented **Boston University** with the 2011 International Distance Learning Award for 21st Century Best Practice. 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.

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.

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, executive director

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."

The 21st Century Best Practice award underscores Boston University's outstanding leadership in the field of distance learning. According to the USDLA, the award is presented to pioneering organizations that have changed distance learning, as well as new organizations that have challenged existing practice by developing new and innovative solutions for distance learning instruction and employee distance learning training programs.

"We are thrilled to receive the 21st Century Best Practices award from USDLA, as it truly celebrates Boston University's achievements in the area of online learning," said Nancy Coleman, director of Distance Education at Boston University. "Our programs, processes, and quality have matured in the nine years we have been offering online education, positioning us as leaders in this innovative and dynamic mode of delivery. It is truly an honor to be recognized by our peers for that achievement."

Dr. Jay Halfond, dean of Boston University's Metropolitan College & Extended Education—which administers the University's distance learning programs—agrees. "These past nine years in the realm of distance learning have been a remarkable ride for us," he said. "I don't know of any other institution that has undertaken online learning similarly, and with such a significant investment in faculty and student support. We have been obsessed with the ambitious goal of creating a learning experience that exceeds the traditional classroom and elevates the already high reputation of Boston University. We are grateful for this recognition of our efforts."

"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 Dr. Denzil Edge, president of USDLA.

Reggie Smith III, chair of USDLA Board of Directors, noted that, “This year’s award winners represent many of the most innovative leaders in the field of distance learning.” He continued, “I also look forward to seeing Boston University again during National Distance Learning Week (www.ndlw.org), November 7-11, 2011.”

About Boston University

Founded in 1839, Boston University is an internationally recognized private research university with more than 30,000 students participating in undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs. BU consists of 17 colleges and schools along with a number of multidisciplinary centers and institutes which are central to the school's research and teaching mission.

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. www.usdla.org

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