

HEADLINE: Distance Learning Leader United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) Announces 2021 International Distance Learning Award Winners

Washington, DC – November 12, 2021 – The United States Distance Learning Association (known globally as USDLA), the leader in Distance and Digital Learning education, has announced its International Distance Learning Award winners for 2021.

Each year, USDLA recognizes innovators and leaders within the distance/digital learning industry as part of our [International Award program](#). These highly coveted awards are presented annually to organizations and individuals who compete across several categories of excellence. This year, the following institutions were chosen by the review committee to receive awards in their respective categories:

- **21st Century Award:** University of Cincinnati Online (winner); Frontier Nursing University (runner-up)
- **Outstanding Leadership Award: Dr. Jitendra Singh,** Professor, Health Administration, Minnesota State University Moorhead
- **Innovation Award:** Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (winner); Columbia University School of Social Work (runner-up)
- **Excellence in Teaching Award** – Clarkson University (winner); Iowa State University (runner-up)
- **Impact Award** – College of Education, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
- **Quality of Research Paper Award** – **Dr. Jitendra Singh,** Professor Health Administration, Minnesota State University Moorhead

Research Paper - Learning online education during COVID-19 pandemic – attitudes and perceptions of non-traditional adult learners", [Quality Assurance in Education](#), Vol. 29 No. 4, pp. 408-421. <https://doi.org/10.1108/QAE-12-2020-0147>

“The International Award program has provided prestigious recognition for educational influencers around the globe for many years” says Arletha McSwain, President of USDLA. “These award winners are truly leaders in the distance/digital learning industry and their work in support of pedagogy is unsurpassed”.

Each year, the annual award winners are recognized by the Association at the USDLA National Conference Awards Dinner and presented a physical award. However, due to the continued pandemic concerns in 2021, we decided to virtually recognize the award winners during National Distance Learning Week (NDLW). All award winners will also be invited to our 2022 National Conference in Nashville, TN to be recognized in person. **To learn more about up-and-coming events as well as the 2022 National Conference please visit us at www.usdla.org.**

The **United States Distance Learning Association** was founded in 1987 and based on the premise of creating a powerful alliance to meet the burgeoning education and training needs of learning communities via new concepts of the fusion of communication technologies with learning in broad multidiscipline applications. We were the first nonprofit distance learning association in the United States to support distance learning research, development, and praxis across the complete arena of education, training, and communications. The learning communities that the USDLA addresses are: pre-K/12, higher education, continuing education, corporate training, military and government training, home schooling, and telehealth. Our mission is to support the development and application of digital and distance learning by focusing on legislation impacting the community and constituencies.