



20th Awards Anniversary

2016 Annual Awards Program

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About the FGDLA

Vision. To be the premier professional Association supporting distance learning in the Federal Government

Purpose and Goals. The purpose of the Association is to promote the development and application of distance learning (DL) for education and training, primarily within the Federal sector.

- **Facilitate** the exchange of information regarding the current application of and potential further uses for DL in the Federal government.
- **Guide** the appropriate application of DL in the Federal Government through the sharing of best-practices, and fostering research in DL theory & practice.
- **Develop** opportunities for the Federal Government in partnering with industry and academia.
- **Lead** efforts to promote Federal interagency cooperation and collaboration.
- **Advocate** the use of DL for training and education within the Federal Government, and provide recognition of outstanding achievements

History of the FGDLA. The FGDLA has a long and rich history with its roots originating at the 1993 TeleCon Conference and the parent organization, the United States Distance Learning Association, which granted the FGDLA charter in 1995. For the past two decades, the FGDLA has been a leading advocate of distance learning in the Federal Government.

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Awards Luncheon Keynote Speaker



Dr. Sae Schatz. Dr. Schatz is widely respected in the distributed learning community for her work in learning science, with a focus on andragogy, human performance assessment, adaptive training, simulation, online/blended learning, and human-systems integration. Dr. Schatz currently serves as the Director of the Advanced Distributed Learning (ADL) Initiative where she advocates for learning science, demonstration of the “art of the possible” in learning technologies, and wide-ranging collaboration with ADL stakeholders. Prior to joining ADL Initiative in the summer of 2015, Dr. Schatz was a Senior Consultant with Executive Development Associates, and before that she was the Chief Scientist for MESH Solutions, LLC (a DSCI Company) in Orlando, Florida. She has worked on a number of well-known projects including the Marine Corps’ “Making Good Instructors Great” effort, the NTSA award-winning Border Hunter research and instructional design project, and the Joint Staff (J7)’s Blended Learning–Training System. Dr. Schatz received her Ph.D. in Modeling and Simulation from the University of Central Florida in 2008. She served on the UCF faculty from 2006–2011 (teaching courses in human-systems integration, visual and web design, and web development) and continues to support the Modeling and Simulation graduate program as an adjunct instructor.

ADL Program History. The ADL Initiative traces its antecedents to the early 1990s, when Congress authorized and appropriated funds for the National Guard to build prototype electronic classrooms and learning networks to increase personnel’s access to learning opportunities. By the mid-1990s, DoD realized the need for a more coordinated approach, and the *1996 Quadrennial Defense Review* formalized this by directing development of a Department-wide strategy for modernizing technology-based education and training. This strategy became the original ADL Initiative, and in 1998, the Deputy Secretary of Defense directed the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)), in collaboration with the Services, Joint Staff, Under Secretaries of Defense for Acquisition and Technology and the Comptroller, to lead ADL. The Deputy Secretary of Defense also directed the USD(P&R) to produce the Department-wide policy for advanced distributed learning, develop a corresponding “master plan” to carry out the policy, and to ensure sufficient programs and resources were available for the associated implementation.

By 1998, the DoD and other Federal agencies had each established their own ADL projects, and the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) moved to consolidate these via the Federal Training Technology Initiative. Thus, following guidance from Congress, OSTP, and the National Partnership for Reinventing Government, the DoD ADL Initiative was grown into a Federal-wide program.

Special Recognition Award

In recognition for exceptional service and significant contribution to the Association.

Broadcast & Video Group, NewBay Media

As the FGDLA celebrates its 21st anniversary, NewBay Media's Broadcast & Video Group has been instrumental in promoting the Association's mission through their energetic support and dedication in launching of the Government Learning Technology Symposium.

Individual Awards

Pioneer Award: In recognition of an individual for demonstrating initiative and leadership in the development and implementation of distance learning in the Federal Government.

Dale Carpenter, Program Manager, Distance Learning Group, National Park Service

As the program manager of the NPS Distance Learning Group, Dale has been at the forefront of acquisitions, support, and implementation of a new enabling technology in distance learning. The "Common Learning Portal" replaces disparate training websites by connecting learning content under one roof in a way that is innovative and accessible. This approach leverages social and informal learning as well as media-rich content that seeks to provide point of need training to a distributed workforce.

Dale's continued efforts, professionalism, and enthusiastic support of distance learning in the National Park Service embody the spirit of the Federal Government Distance Learning Association.

Andrea Simonelli, Government Team Lead, Video Technologies Team, Information Technology Department, Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division, Naval Air Systems Command

During the last several years, Andrea has displayed the highest standards and exceptional leadership in the support of distance learning. On a daily basis, Andrea is responsible for the entire video, voice and data collaboration network and operations supporting distance learning. Her innovative distance learning initiative includes a blended-learning approach that integrates traditional rooms with desktop and mobile devices that reaches her target audience on-shore and at-sea! The result has been an increase in military readiness while reducing training costs.

Andrea's continued efforts, professionalism, and enthusiastic support of distance learning in the Naval Air Warfare Center embody the spirit of the Federal Government Distance Learning Association.

Dr. Damon Regan, Systems Engineer, Advanced Distributed Learning

Dr. Regan has been supporting the Advanced Distributed Learning (ADL) Initiative since 2004. He initially contributed to the implementation of the Sharable Content Object Reference Model (SCORM) and the ADL Registry in the Department of Defense to better share learning content using interoperable standards. He has contributed to policy and research projects to modernize distributed learning architectures. In partnership with the Department of Education, Dr. Regan led Department of Defense contributions to the Learning Registry and led the 3D Repository research project which facilitated the sharing of 3D models throughout the Federal Government. Throughout his time at ADL, Dr. Regan has published numerous conference papers and book chapters on distributed learning research topics.

Damon's continued efforts, professionalism, and enthusiastic support of distance learning in the Advanced Distributed Learning Initiative embody the spirit of the Federal Government Distance Learning Association.

JoAnne Green, Director of Academic Computing, iCollege, National Defense University

JoAnne has been instrumental in streamlining and improving processes, enhancing productivity, and implementing technology solutions supporting distance learning at NDU. While she directs the NDU iCollege Laboratory Center, JoAnne also incorporates new technologies into both physical and online classrooms. She is responsible for the creation and implementation of new adult learning paradigms that utilize emerging technologies, including virtualization, cloud computing, mobile computing, simulations, gaming and more. Her research interests encompass a broad array of issues related to instructional and emerging technologies specifically focusing on the development and use of academic technologies to enhance teaching and learning in higher education.

JoAnne's continued efforts, professionalism, and enthusiastic support of distance learning in the iCollege of the National Defense University embody the spirit of the Federal Government Distance Learning Association.

Paul Thurkettle, Director, NATO E-Learning, Allied Command Transformation

Since 2003, Paul Thurkettle has been a leader in the area of integrating innovative technologies to support NATO E-Learning initiatives. In 2011, he assumed leadership of this initiative and lead the NATO E-Learning team in deploying the capabilities to deliver content to a vastly geographical dispersed audience.

Equipped with a small team and lean budget, Paul has managed to develop the capability to deliver over 200 online courses to major NATO networks that encompasses over 95,000 users from 85 countries.

While these courses utilize leading edge technology, Paul continues to push his team to investigate new ideas and emerging technological solutions by working closely with NATO member nations on meeting future standards and pedagogical challenges.

Paul's continued efforts, professionalism, and enthusiastic support of distance learning in NATO's E-Learning, Allied Command Transformation embody the spirit of the Federal Government Distance Learning Association.

Hall of Fame: In recognition of an individual who has made significant contributions in promoting and developing distance learning in the Federal Government.

Kenneth P. Pisel, Ph.D., Satellite Program Manager, Joint Forces Staff College, National Defense University

Dr. Pisel's distinguished service spans a 22-year career as a naval officer and a faculty member at both the United States Naval Academy and the National Defense University/Joint Forces Staff College.

As the satellite program manager of the Joint and Combined Warfighting School at the Joint Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Dr. Pisel led the development and implementation of both the blended Reserve Component Joint Professional Military Education and the online Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education programs.

Dr. Pisel established the Military Education Coordination Council's Distance Learning Coordination Committee (DLCC) in 1995, and served as the DLCC Chair for three years. He reassumed the Chair in 2004 and continues to lead the Joint Education community's efforts in distance learning. Currently, he is leading the development and implementation of the Joint and Combined Warfighting School Satellite Program—a non-resident format for Phase II Joint Professional Military Education authorized by Congress.

Dr. Pisel's continued efforts and enthusiastic support of distance learning exemplifies the spirit of the Federal Government Distance Learning Association.

Organizational Awards

Pillar Award: In recognition for outstanding service or significant contribution to the FGDLA by an organization not affiliated with the Federal Government.

Elearning Media Group

The Government *Elearning* Magazine is the only magazine exclusively focused on enterprise-wide learning and workplace technologies supporting the Federal Government distance learning community. Through its publication of the Government *Elearning* Magazine, it has promoted the FGDLA mission throughout the Federal Government. Additionally, the marketing services provided by the Elearning Media Group have contributed immensely in successfully re-launching the Government Learning Technology Symposium.

Innovation Award: In recognition of an organization for demonstrating leadership in the development of emerging distance learning technologies providing enterprise-wide solutions for the Federal Government.

Distance Learning Group, National Park Service

The Distance Learning Group is as an integral component of the National Park Service distance learning strategy. It has been at forefront of acquisitions, support, and implementation of a new enabling technologies supporting distance learning. Specifically, the creation of the “Common Learning Portal” replaces disparate training websites by connecting learning content under one roof. This innovative approach not only increases accessibility but also leverages social and informal learning, as well as media-rich content that seeks to provide point of need training to a distributed workforce.

The National Park Service Distance Learning Group’s continued efforts and enthusiastic support of distance learning in the federal government exemplify the spirit of the Federal Government Distance Learning Association.

Advanced Distributed Learning Initiative, Office of the Undersecretary of Defense (Personnel & Readiness)

The Advanced Distributed Learning (ADL) Initiative is a Department of Defense research and development program, founded to assist DOD and other Federal agencies better support flexible, lifelong learning through the use of technology.

In its earliest days, ADL met the interoperability issues of the e-learning age with the Sharable Content Object Reference Model (SCORM), which enabled cross-platform sharing of e-learning content. In 2011, ADL recognized the need for interoperability and finer-grained management of learning performance data—particularly outside of Learning Management Systems (LMSs) and web browsers.

Working with external performers, ADL ultimately developed the xAPI specification. xAPI allows the capture of “big data” on human performance, along with associated context information. It enables nearly dynamic tracking of activities from any platform or software system—from traditional LMSs to mobile devices, videos, simulations, wearables, physical beacons, and more.

Today, xAPI compatibility is integrated into numerous commercial products that includes many LMSs and distributed learning authoring tools, and is facilitating adoption of xAPI into the Department of Defense and federal government.

The Advanced Distributed Learning’s continued efforts and enthusiastic support of distance learning in the federal government exemplify the spirit of the Federal Government Distance Learning Association.

NATO E-Learning, Allied Command Transformation

The NATO e-Learning Programme was requested by the NATO Military Committee to ensure NATO was able to use modern thinking and technology for its requirements.

Reaching full operational capability in 2009, The NATO e-Learning Programme currently reaches across all 28 NATO nations, as well as partners nations and is working with new friendship nations such as Moldova, Ukraine, Armenia to enable their national capability.

Currently, NATO E-Learning offers over 200 courses including those directly supporting Resolute Support (Afghanistan) as well as supporting 95,000 users from 85 NATO countries. Also, topics such as Gender Awareness, Children in Armed Conflict, and Building Integrity are provided in areas where the e-learning program can reach a widely dispersed audience with this important information.

Along with creating and delivering quality online training, NATO's mission also supports research and development by exploring on new technologies, such as immersive training, serious games, and virtual worlds. These e-learning programs have increased NATO's military readiness while creating information assurance with related operations.

NATO's E-Learning, Allied Command Transformation continued efforts and enthusiastic support of distance learning in the federal government exemplify the spirit of the Federal Government Distance Learning Association.

Five-Star Award: In recognition of an organization for demonstrating excellence in providing enterprise-wide distance learning solutions for the Federal Government.

Acquisition Career Management Group, Acquisition Policy and Oversight, Federal Aviation Administration

The FAA identified the need for an online tutorial that provides Acquisition Workforce professionals with an understanding of the Acquisition Workforce Professional Development Process, and the tools and resources available to them to support their continued professional development. Consequently, the Acquisition Career Management Group developed a high quality, engaging video tutorial series entitled Introduction to Acquisition Workforce Development.

This online tutorial series explains the process and tools available to acquisition workforce members to help them take charge of their own learning and development. More than just a standard online course, this training series is designed to support acquisition professionals through the process of taking meaningful actions around their own professional development, saving the FAA tremendous resources in helping learners navigate a robust and evolving acquisition training and development program.

The Federal Aviation Administration's Acquisition Career Management Group continued efforts and enthusiastic support of distance learning in the federal government exemplify the spirit of the Federal Government Distance Learning Association.

Digital Learning Network, National Aeronautics and Space Administration

In 2000, three NASA Centers (Glenn Research Center, Johnson Space Center, Langley Research Center) began to experiment with production capability for distance learning. The NASA videoconferencing system (ViTs) was in place and used mostly for meetings, but not used as frequently for education purposes. In January 2002, NASA's Office of Education agreed to provide start-up-funding, and the NASA-Iowa Connection project was first launched.

Over time, the Digital Learning Network (DLN) has offered many technology-related services to several other projects in the NASA Education portfolio while reaching nearly 130,000 students and educators every year with its own interactive events.

Today, the DLN is on a fast track to becoming a robust infrastructure for any kind of educational opportunity to be expanded across the Internet: from scientist to students of all ages, from Center to Center, and from NASA to the Nation. It provides the infrastructure to meet NASA's education goals in meaningful ways that are educationally sound, standards-based, and engaging.

Since its inception, the DLN has served over one million teachers and educators throughout the nation and world. The DLN continues to be a pathfinder in the area of instructional technology by merging video best practices with education best practices for interactive experiences.

NASA's Digital Learning Network continued efforts and enthusiastic support of distance learning in the federal government exemplify the spirit of the Federal Government Distance Learning Association.

Information Technology Department, Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division, Naval Air Systems Command

The Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division is one of two product centers within Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) that partner with industry to deliver high-quality, affordable products in support of military operating forces worldwide. NAVAIR is responsible for development, acquisition, and life-cycle management for all Navy and Marine Corps aviation systems.

NAVAIR's mission is to provide full life-cycle support of naval aviation aircraft, weapons and systems operated by Sailors and Marines. This support includes research, design, development and systems engineering; acquisition; test and evaluation; training facilities and equipment; repair and modification; and in-service engineering and logistics support.

As a core mission, effective training and education is of primary focus for NAVAIR commands. Superior teamwork is required to ensure vast training requirements are accomplished. During the 8+ years of operations, the NAVAIR Video Teletraining Center and Training Applications Team has displayed the highest standards possible with exceptional results. Daily, the team ensures successful video, voice and data collabora-

tion operations. Training is a major application of the operations and produces exceptional return upon investment including military increased readiness. Training from NAVAIR is delivered in a blended-learning approach including traditional rooms, on-the-go units, at the desktop and to mobile devices on shore and at-sea.

The Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division, Information Technology Department's continued efforts and enthusiastic support of distance learning in the federal government exemplify the spirit of the Federal Government Distance Learning Association.

Eagle Award: In recognition of an organization in the Federal Government that demonstrates unique leadership in serving the needs of the federal government distance learning community by providing advocacy, information, networking, and opportunity.

College of Distance Education & Training, Marine Corps University

Through a variety of distance learning delivery systems, the Marine Corps College of Distance Education and Training (CDET) provides distance education and training opportunities for all Marines, government employees, and family members. CDET's programs are accessible globally, preparing our graduates to perform more effectively in service, joint, and multinational environments, in situations ranging from humanitarian assistance to combat.

CDET's online learning management system, MarineNet, provides education to all Marines wherever they are stationed, and the college's worldwide seminar program supports the Professional Military Education and Distance Education Programs through a network of satellite campuses, learning resource centers, and video teletraining centers. CDET's programs and courses concentrate on the leadership, warfighting, and staff development skills of the nation's military, and feature the educational standards, learning areas, and learning objectives of the joint professional military education program required by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

