



2015 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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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.

Nan Lu, Visual Information Specialist, Naval Postgraduate Dental School, U.S. Navy

Tasked with the development and implementation of a distance learning plan supporting the Naval Postgraduate Dental School, Nan Lu implemented a blended learning technology that would meet the training needs of the Post Graduate Dental School. Her leadership and professionalism has created a successful training operations Implementation of technology that integrated synchronous and asynchronous course content.

Additionally, Ms. Lu developed an operational plan to capture, stream, record, and archive course content. She also re-designed traditional classrooms learning environments to better utilize the benefits of technology in the classrooms, while also providing staff assistance and training to facilitate the adoption of distance learning technologies.

Nan Lu's continued efforts, professionalism, and enthusiastic support of distance learning in the Department of Defense and U.S. Navy embody the spirit of the Federal Government Distance Learning Association.

Jean-Paul Massart, Chief, Education & Training Service Line Directorate Applications Services, NATO Communications and Information Agency

Jean-Paul's responsibilities include training for all Information Technology and Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) personnel in NATO/Europe, including U.S. forces assigned to NATO. His strategic thinking and planning resulted in a complete operational shift from a traditional training environment to effective and efficient modern training strategy.

Jean-Paul's continued efforts, professionalism, and enthusiastic integration of distance learning supporting NATO forces 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.

James McGettigan, Information Technology Division, Northeast Regional Office, National Park Service, Department of Interior (DOI).

James's distinguished service in supporting distance learning in the Federal Government for the past decade has been exceptional. This is evidenced by his pioneering efforts in supporting the National Park Service (NPS) videoconferencing distance learn-

ing digital outreach program. Additionally, in 2008, Jim implemented the annual Presidential Primary Sources distance learning program, and in February 2015 produced, from the National Mall and on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, the first live distance learning broadcast to students across the nation. He has also produced, by request, two distance learning programs for former President Jimmy Carter.

Over the past year the NPS, Jim and his team has successfully planned and produced several major special events. Events include the Star-Spangled Banner Bicentennial at Fort McHenry, and the culmination of the Civil War Sesquicentennial at Appomattox Court House. These events provided enjoyment for over 153,000 visitors at the parks, in addition to the hundreds of thousands of students, educators and individuals across the nation and the world who followed along and participated digitally through the distance learning programs and integrated social media outreach.

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

Organizational Awards

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.

Defense Education & Training Network (DETN)

The Defense Education & Training Network (DETN) is a satellite-based, instructional interactive television (ITV) network transmitting one-way video and two-way audio to global classroom locations. Due to current budgetary restraints and continuing personnel deployment, many potential students did not access to a satellite-based classroom site. Consequently, the DETN staff explored alternative technical solutions to deliver course content to this geographically dispersed student population and eliminate existing training gaps. Coordinating with the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) and By leveraging existing technology, the DETN developed an innovative capability to stream video content to these dispersed classroom locations. The streaming capability initiative allows the availability of the training to reach a larger audience who are in critical need of the training at a particular time at zero operational expense to the taxpayer.

The result was a significant reduction in the pre-existing training gap as evidenced by a threefold increase in the number of participants. Because the solution already existed within governmental resources, the additional training hours was attained at "zero" operational cost to the government. This initiative fueled Federal Government Agencies' ability to meet training requirements which were previously stagnated by current mission requirements and geographic barriers.

The DETN's 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.

Defense Security Service (DSS), Center for Development of Security Excellence (CDSE), Department of Defense (DOD)

The Federal Government Distance Learning Association is pleased to announce the presentation of the Five Star Award to the Center for Development of Security Excellence (CDSE), Defense Security Service. The Five Star award recognizes a Federal Government organization for their leadership and best practices in the development and application of *proven* distance learning technologies supporting the Federal Government.

The CDSE serves as the premier provider of security education, training, and certification for the Department of Defense, other federal agencies, and industry under the National Industrial Security Program (NISP).

In fulfilling its mission, the CDSE provides education and training to customers at home and abroad through a variety of distance learning technologies to include eLearning courses, virtual environment delivery, performance support tools, webinars, and the CDSE YouTube Channel. Additionally, the CDSE provides continuous support of video production and delivery of distance learning to the DoD security community.

The Center for Development of Security Excellence's continued efforts and enthusiastic support of distance learning in the federal government exemplify the spirit of the Federal Government Distance Learning Association.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Department of Transportation (DOT)

In 2014, FHWA Operations Discipline instituted a distance virtual learning approach for the continued professional development of all staff members at regional offices across the U.S. without requiring travel to attend. To meet its course demand, the FHWA created an innovative "flipped-classroom" approach with their Corridor Management Approach to Operations training course. This approach allowed participants to watch short videos and participate in scenario-based online discussions. Participants then joined live online webinar sessions to discuss what they had learned, as well as their on-the-job experience of the subject matter, with experts and colleagues from across the country. This allowed participants to engage in asynchronous discussions and activities with other learners, resulting in a self-paced, online social learning environment.

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

Joint Knowledge Online, Joint Training, Joint Knowledge Online Division, Department of Defense (DOD)

Sponsored by the Office of Secretary of Defense, the JKO was chartered in 2007 to manage a distributed learning training platform. The JKO's mission was to modernize military training and advance the use of distributed learning programs.

After initial operating capability, the JKO's Joint Training Directorate integrated a learning content management system (LCMS). Currently, the LCMS tracks over two million registered users, and averages over two hundred thousand course completions per month. As of mid-May 2015, the JKO had delivered 5,992,627 course completions and 24,646,656 online training hours.

The Joint Training Directorate's continued efforts and enthusiastic support of distance learning in the federal government exemplify the spirit of the Federal Government Distance Learning Association.

Center for Leadership Development, Office of Personnel Management (OPM)

The OPM's Center for Leadership Development mission is developing great leaders for the Federal Government by providing educational and training courses through the Federal Executive Institute's (FEI). Using new and emerging advanced distance learning development and delivery methodologies, the FEI converted a traditional, instructor lead course to a virtual learning environment. The course, Leadership in a Democratic Society (LDS) Crisis Leadership, was converted to a distance learning by redesigning the course that supported a virtual classroom delivery that would maximize engagement and interactivity.

This was accomplished by converting traditional text-based lessons to a video format, supported by student-student interaction through online discussion forums. The overwhelming positive response of the conversion revealed 96% of participants felt the course elements were effective in conveying information, that there was enough interaction to keep them engaged throughout the course, and the content would be valuable in helping them implement crisis leadership at work.

The Center for Leadership Development's continued efforts and enthusiastic support of distance learning in the federal government exemplify the spirit of the Federal Government Distance Learning Association.

Office of Entrepreneurial Education, Small Business Administration (SBA)

The Small Business Administration's (SBA's) Office of Entrepreneurial Education's mission is to provide entrepreneurial information, education, resources and tools to help small businesses succeed. The office is an integral component of Entrepreneurial Development's network of training and counseling services, serving over 15,000 small business mentors and advisors across the country.

To that end, the Office of Entrepreneurial Education created an online Partner Training Portal resource library consisting of short, 3-5 minute distance learning video vi-

gnettes. These vignettes include topics such as Basic Loans, Contracting, Disaster Loans, Counseling and Training. The vignettes were designed to quickly bring small business mentors and counselors up-to-speed on a new topic and to connect them with the resources needed to further understand and explain the topic to small business owners.

The Office of Entrepreneurial Education's continued efforts and enthusiastic support of distance learning in the federal government exemplify the spirit of the Federal Government Distance Learning Association.

***Health Informatics Section, Veterans Health Administration (VHA)
Mental Health Services, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)***

The growing need for mental health services within the military has necessitated a strategic effort to develop interactive web-based training programs to provide the needed support for Veterans who may have mental or behavioral health concerns. These web-based courses promote prevention efforts and target users who need the services but face barriers to receiving them in the current systems of care.

One of the newest products to support these individuals is an interactive web based course called *Anger and Irritability Management (AIMS)*. The goal of the *AIMS* course is to assist Veterans and Service Members to better understand their strengths and weaknesses, define anger trigger points, identify goals, and formulate personal plans that can be implemented to confidently identify and manage demanding anger situations.

Users can remotely access the course at a time and location of their choosing, thus reducing stigma and overcoming the barriers users experienced when receiving these services in the current system. This open source course requires no log-in or collection of any personal identification information, therefore, providing users with complete privacy and anonymity. Since early January 2015, over 85,500 have accessed this course.

The Mental Health Informatics Section'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 Division, Allied Command Transformation

The Joint Education, Training and Exercises Division provide distance learning courses globally to NATO and U.S military forces. In fulfilling its mission, the division provides e-learning materials via a NATO network enabling synchronous or asynchronous distance learning. Materials can be utilized to support a standalone course or integrated as part of a blended learning strategy supporting existing training courses.

The Joint Education, Training and Exercises Division's continued efforts and enthusiastic support of distance learning in supporting U.S. forces assigned to NATO exemplify the spirit of the Federal Government Distance Learning Association.

Justice Television Network, Office of Legal Education, U.S. Dept of Justice

The Office of Legal Education (OLE) is the primary legal training organization for the United States Department of Justice. The mission of OLE is to provide legal training to the 110,000 employees of the Department of Justice. In addition to the Department of Justice, OLE provides training to most federal agencies, state and local law enforcement partners, tribal entities as well as international government partners.

OLE operations include a team dedicated to Media Services and Distance Education. This team is responsible for providing audio visual support to on site courses. The distance education team has developed unique solutions that leverage and combine both distance and residential programs, and is the primary producer of distance education content distributed via the Justice Television Network (JTN), an internal, secure television satellite-based hybrid network.

The JTN operates a continuous satellite channel, featuring a primary broadcast quality video, as well as live desktop streaming of instructional content. The JTN averages approximately 25 hours of content on its primary channel each week that meet the legal needs of the Department. In Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2015, the JTN produced 116 individual training programs, averaging approximately one hour per program. In FY 2015, there were 580,000 discrete views and 120,000 on-demand views.

