Award Title: USDLA Trendsetter in Distance Learning Award

Award Description: The Trendsetter in Distance Learning award is given to an agency, institution, company, project, individual or unique pedagogy that has shown innovation in the field of distance learning. The award recognizes pioneering initiatives in the field that have profoundly changed distance learning, existing practice, or developed new and effective solutions.

Criteria	Strong (10)	Medium (5)	Weak (1)	Sample Artifacts
Major impact on advancement of distance learning	The innovation has a tight alignment between outcomes/goals/mission and measured impact. Innovation leader(s) are setting goals, measuring the impact, and provide evidence of monitoring progress and impact of the innovation.	There is some measured impact.	There is little to no measurable impact.	Evidence of how the innovation impact and progress is being measured and monitored.
Innovation	The Innovation is a process, model or technology for effective teaching and learning and ii) has demonstrated the potential for enhancing quality and achieving scale.	The innovation is a project, initiative, technology, and/or pedagogy that contains some elements which are new or original but is not wholly so.	The project is not new or original.	A description of how the innovation is new and original and how it may influence distance learning.

Engagement	The innovation is interesting, engaging and unique. It makes a powerful statement. It may be a new concept, tool, method or something that contributes to the advancement of distance learning.	The innovation is interesting and engaging. It definitely makes a statement.	The engagement is minimal.	Evidence of how the innovation engages and contributes to the advancement of distance learning.
Solid and Significant	The innovation addresses a need or problem in distance learning and provides a solid solution that could make a significant impact on distance learning. The innovation has been pilot tested and shown effective.	The innovation addresses a need or problem in distance learning and provides a possible solution. The innovation has been tested and shown to be somewhat effective.	No real need or problem is addressed.	A description of how the innovation addresses a need or problem in distance learning and how is provides a solution which could significantly impact distance learning. Evidence of how the innovation has been tested and shown to be effective.
Note: We are not judging reach or depth of impact; this award can be something small. It could be a large impact on one class, or it could reach just one regional area or impact the whole world, but none of that should change the judging.				